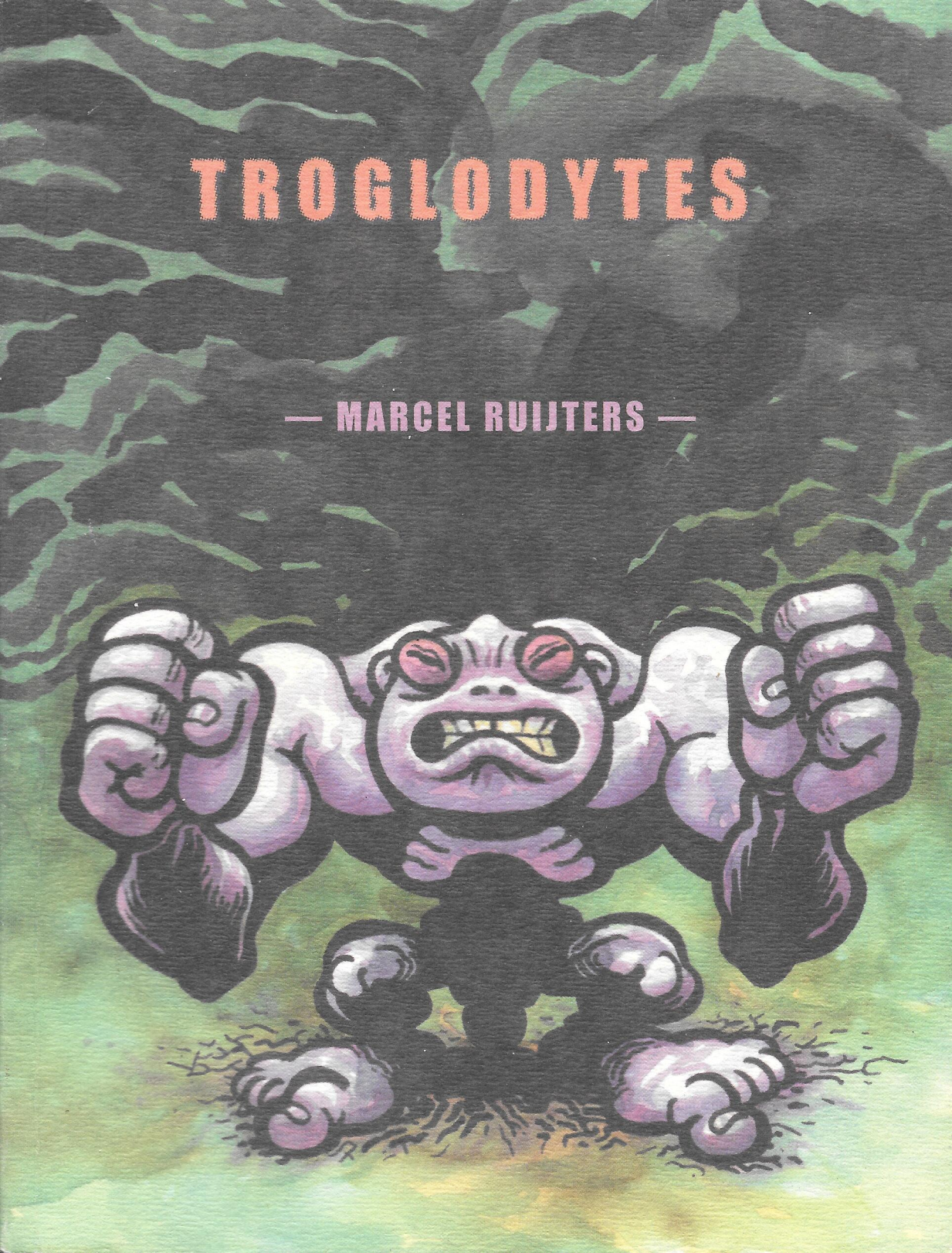
# TROGLODYTES

— MARCEL RUIJTERS —



HOMO SAPIENS[1] appeared on the stage by leaving their cave dwellings, while HOMO TROGLODYTES VULGARIS[2] by contrast, dug themselves deeper into the Earth's crust.

The key to understanding the society of TROGLODYTES is ORGONE.[3] Orgone was rediscovered by 20th-century alchemist Wilhelm Reich, who understood it as the 5th Essence, the primal Life Force from which all other forms of energy come forth. It exists in the atmosphere and all living things. Orgone is released through SEX.[4] The TROGLODYTES harness this energy in ORGONE GENERATORS[5] in order to bring light into their world of caves. As for most of their technology, these machines were inherited from their former masters, the tall, double-jointed, double-tongued semi-immortal rulers of ASGARTHA,[6] who worshipped the SUN[7] until they perished. The TROGLODYTES survived the cataclysm, and copied their rituals and science intuitively to become PREMASONS.[8] Since then, they regard the sun as the location of Hell.

Like in any society, priests and builders are the first professions to appear that are not related to food-gathering. They form the elite. TROGLODYTES form no families. Children are raised in BREEDING COLONIES.[9] Their abundant fertility leads to cruelty, as former slaves are often want to be.

Unlike Homo Sapiens, that favors curiosity and original thought, the TROGLODYTES have no need for exploring the Earth's surface, but rather, simply, prefer safety in numbers.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

HOMO INVERSUS

CHIMAERA

OUROBOROS

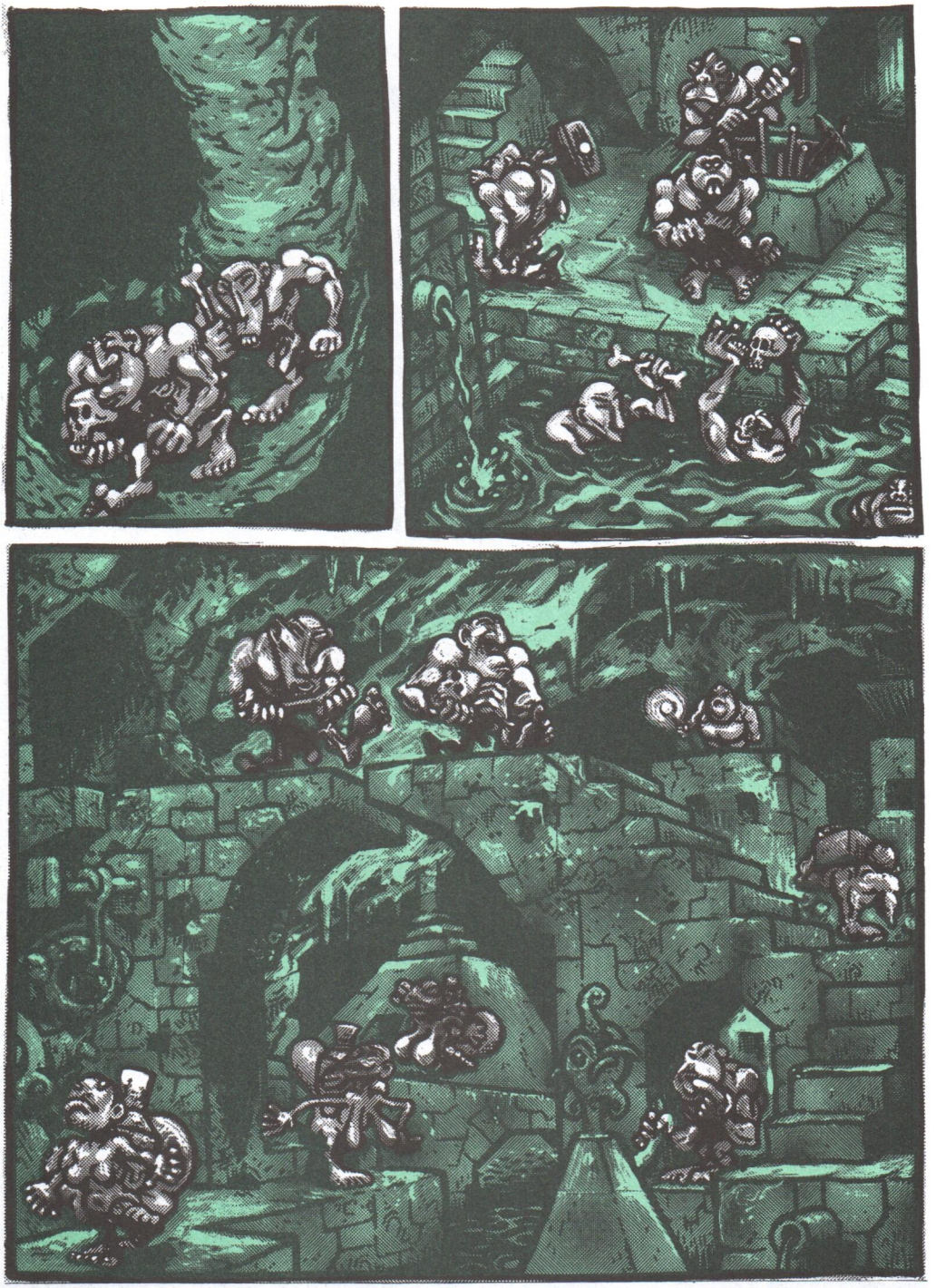
ORGONE GENERATOR

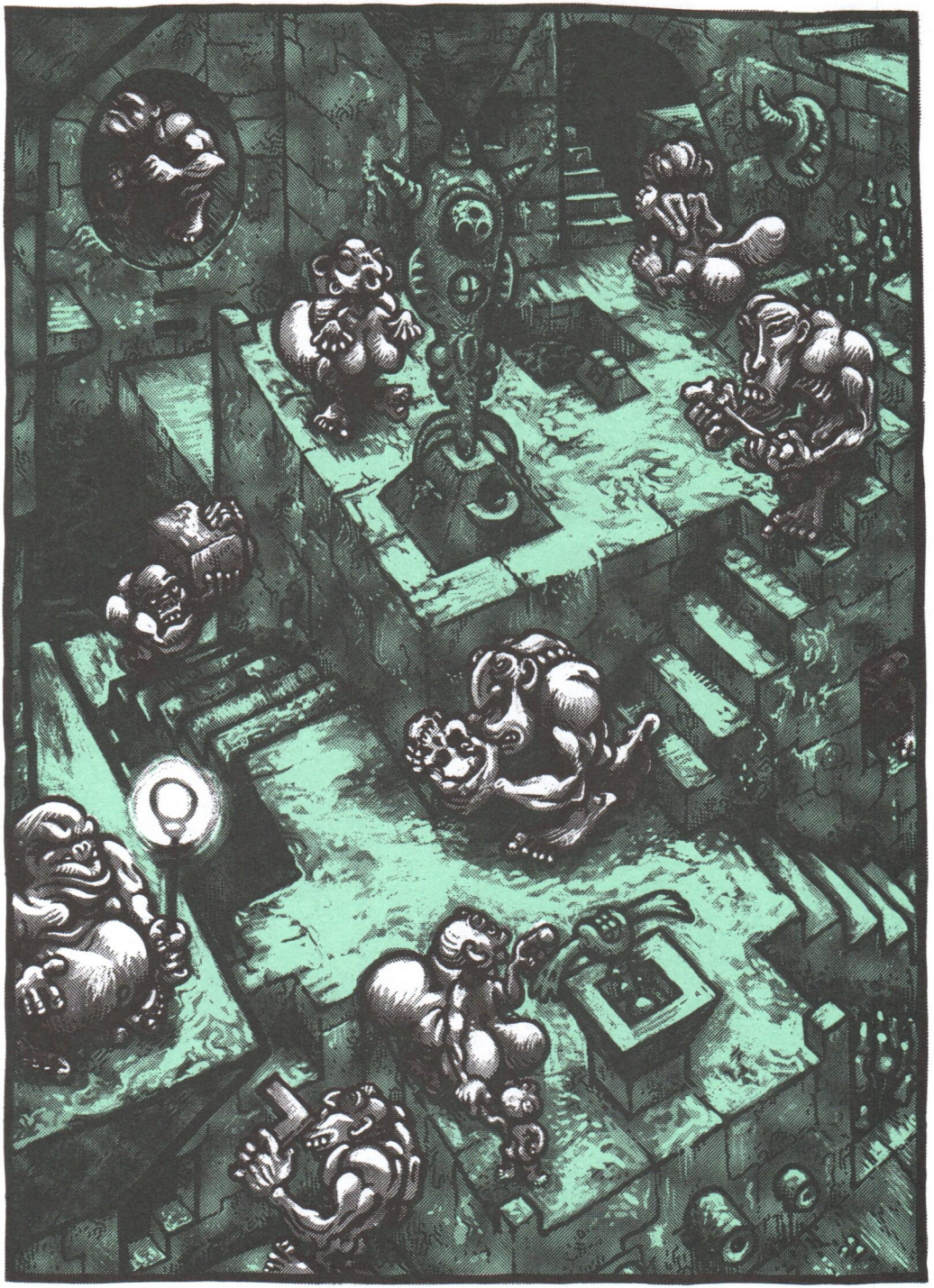
SOL INFERNUS

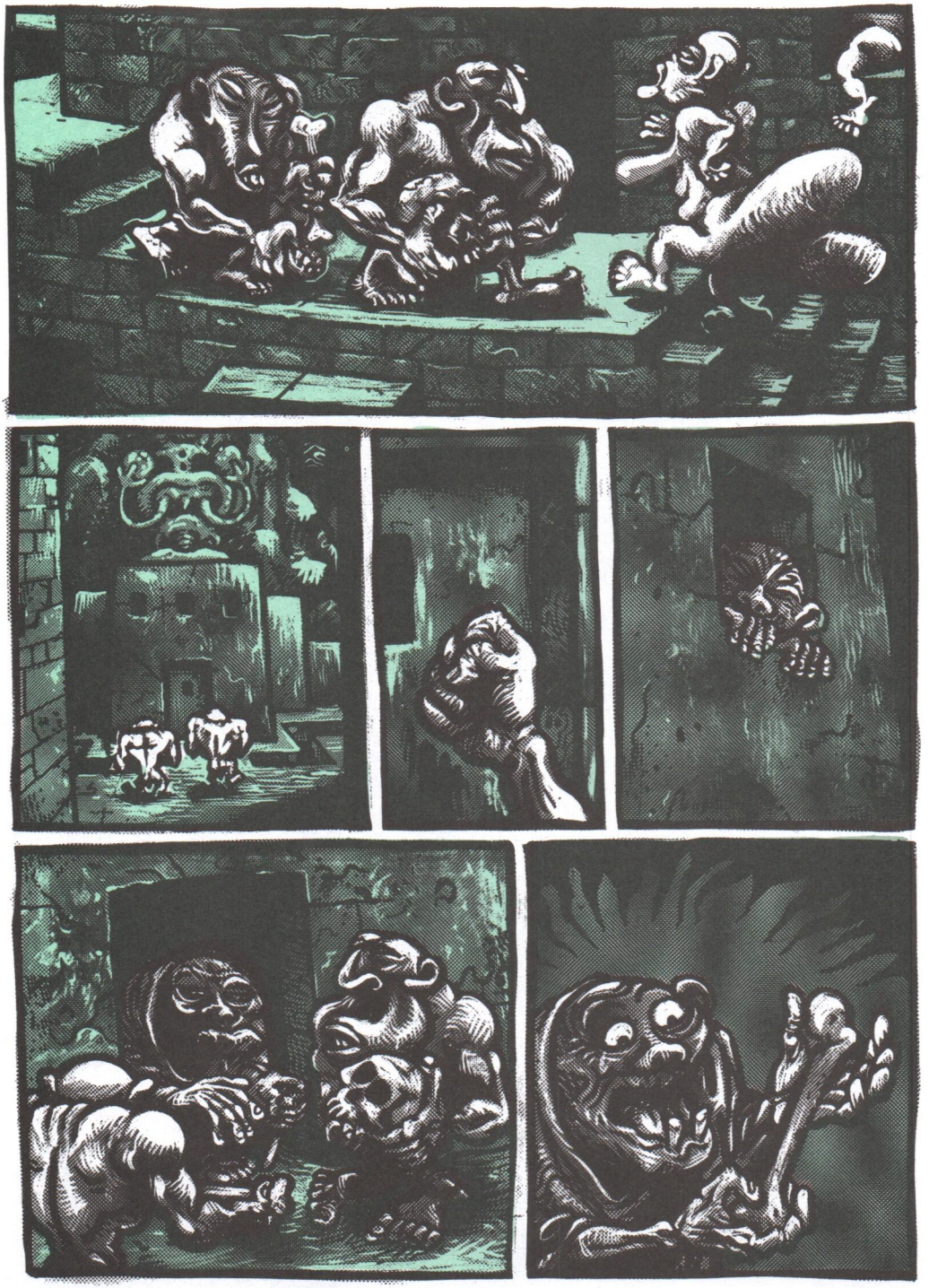
FUNGUS

NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM

HOMO
INVERSUS







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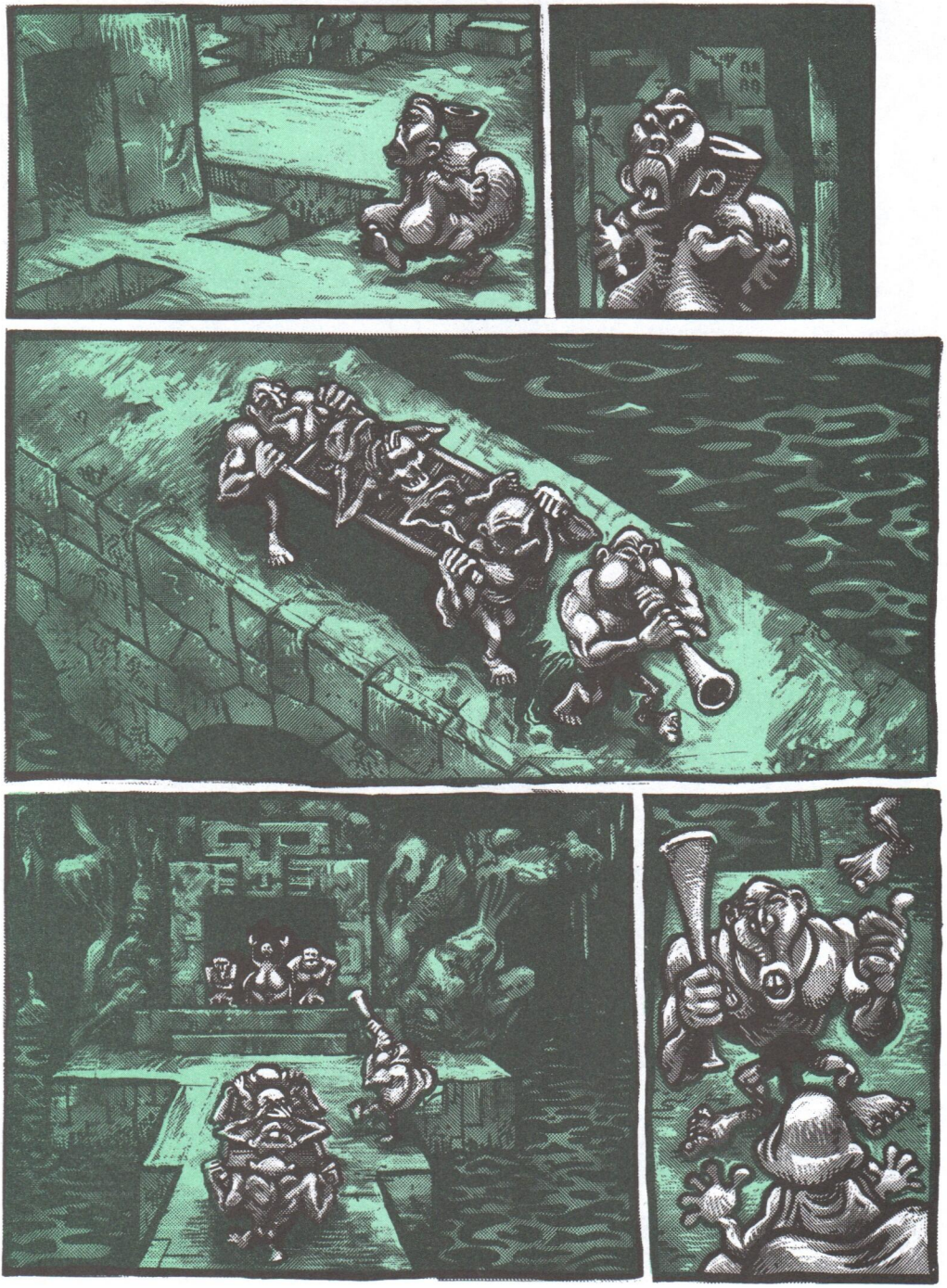

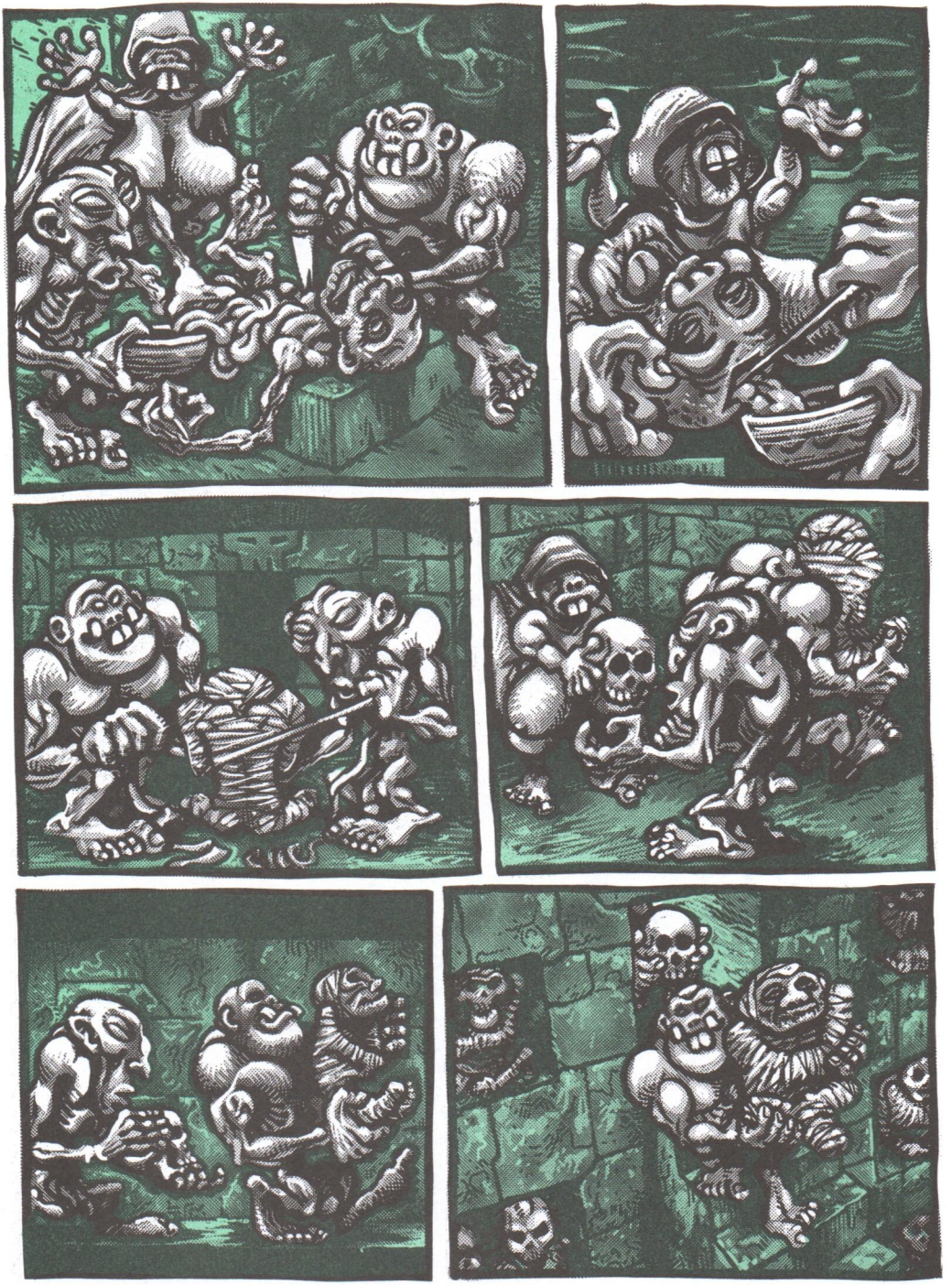

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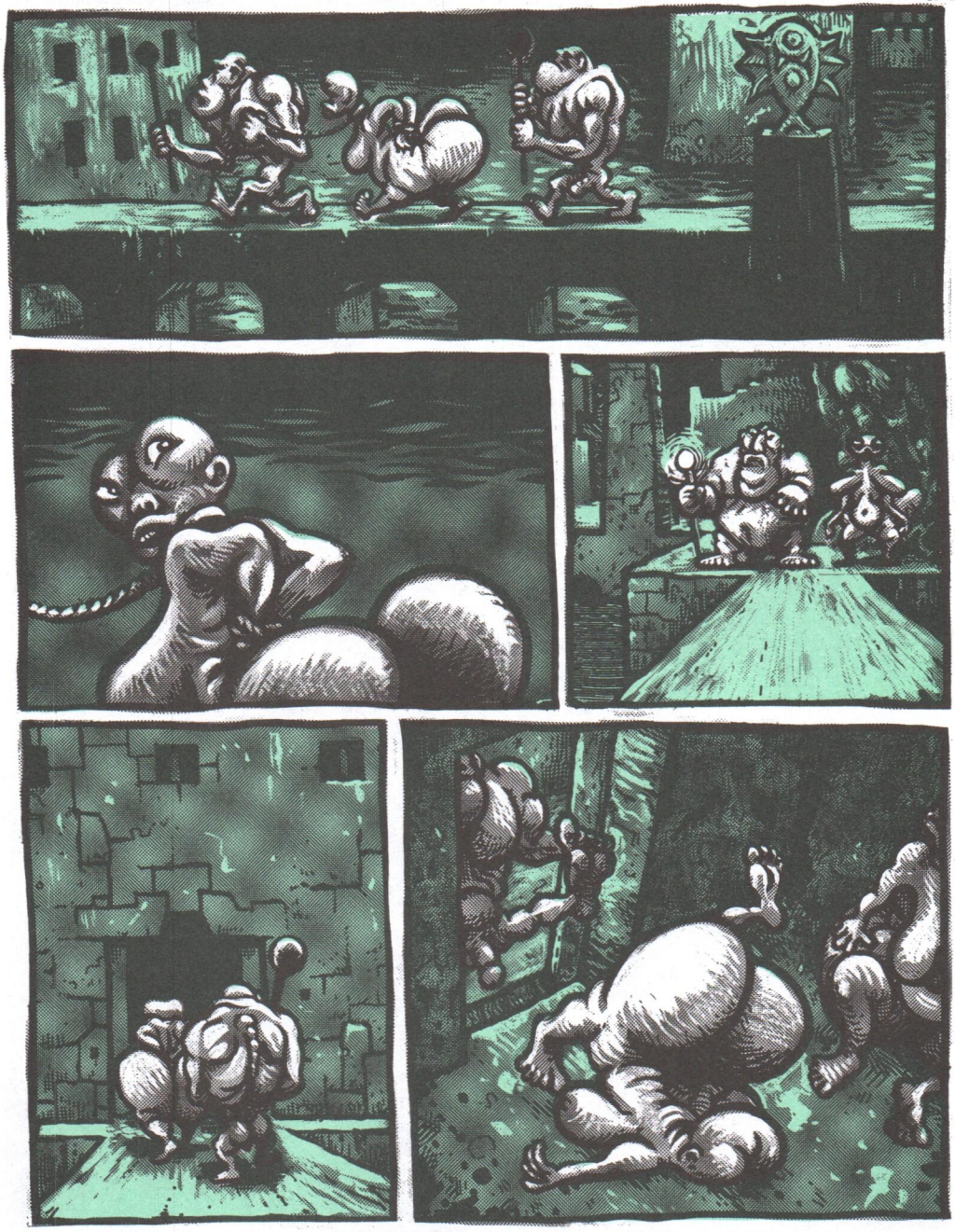

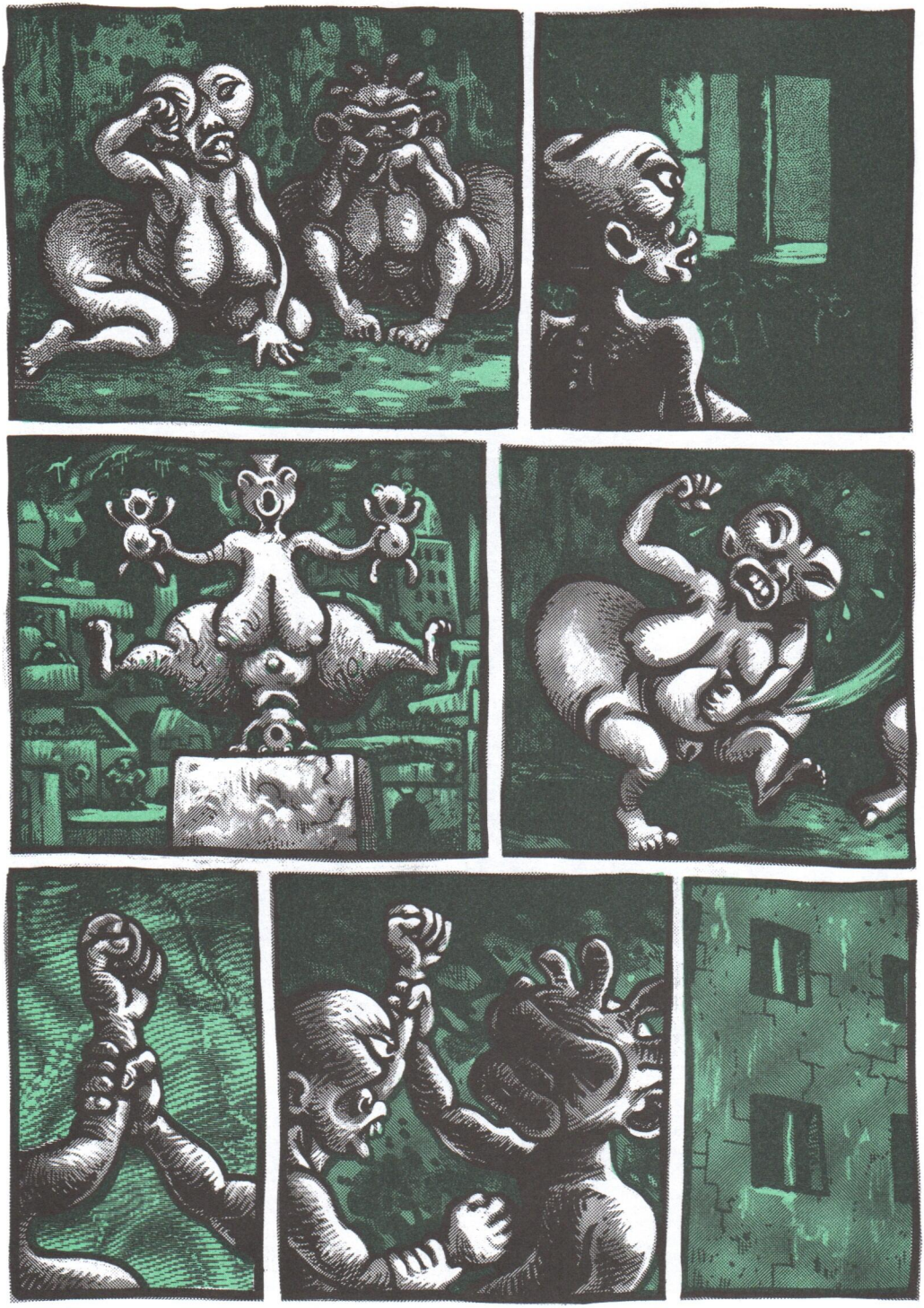

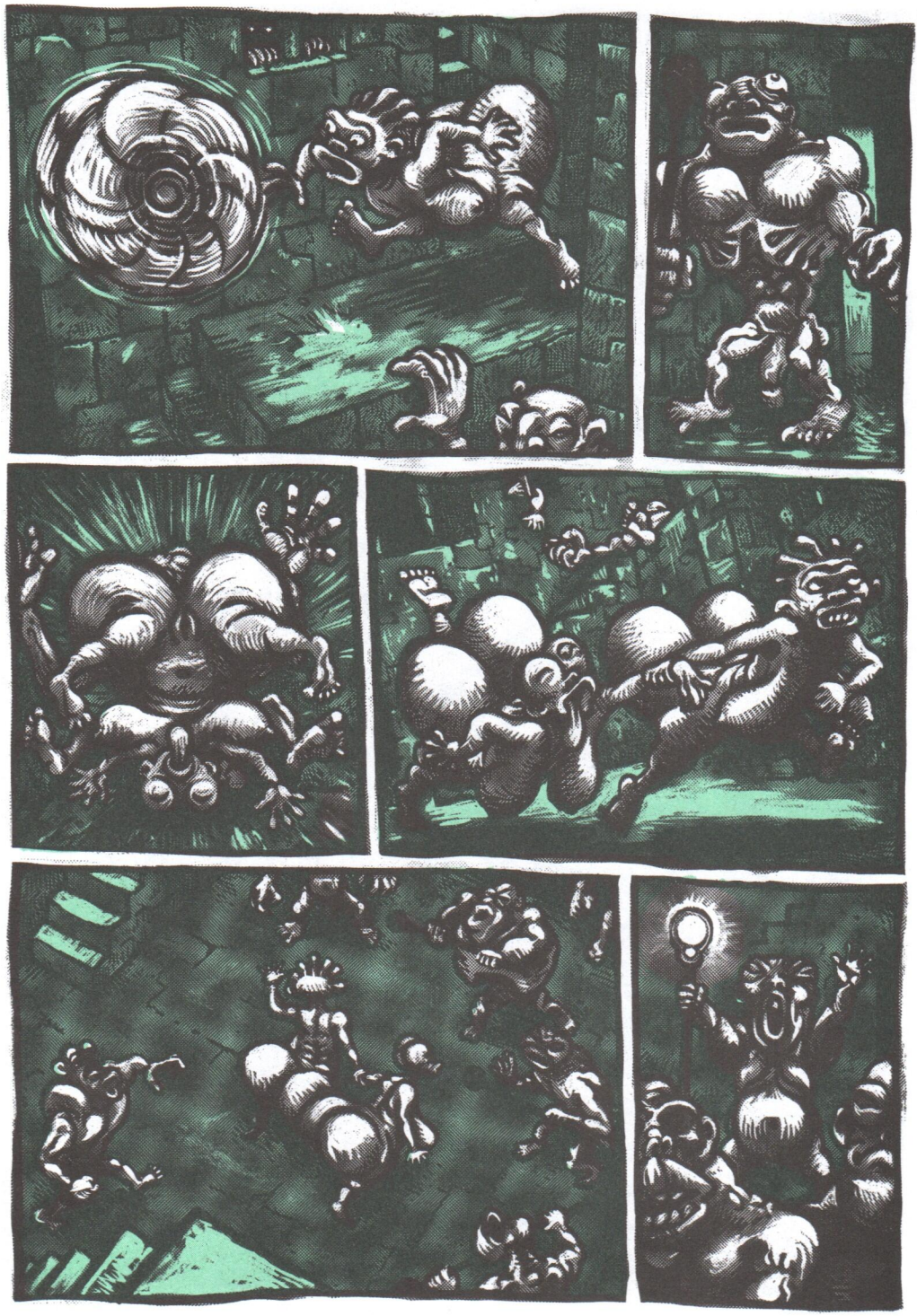

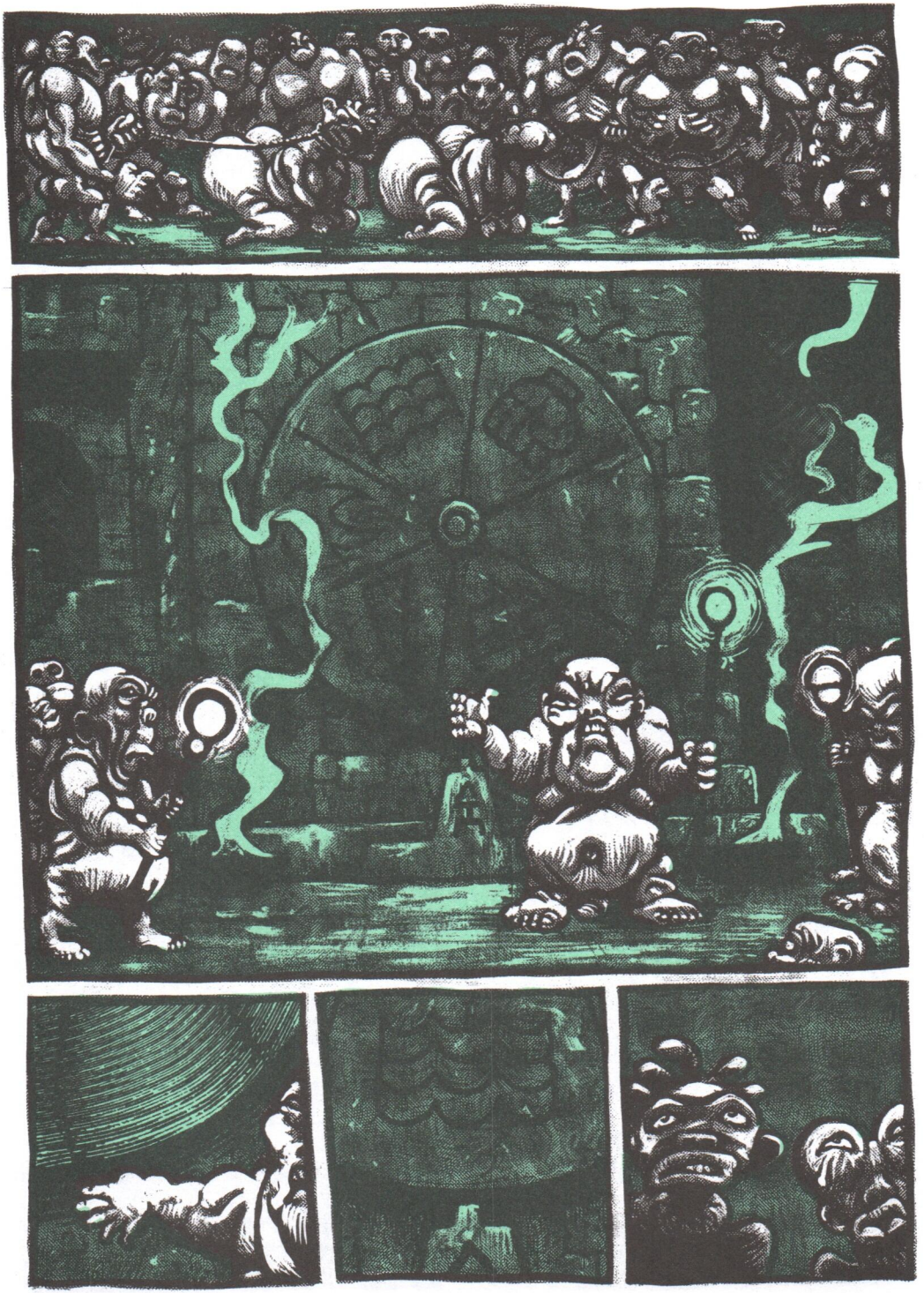

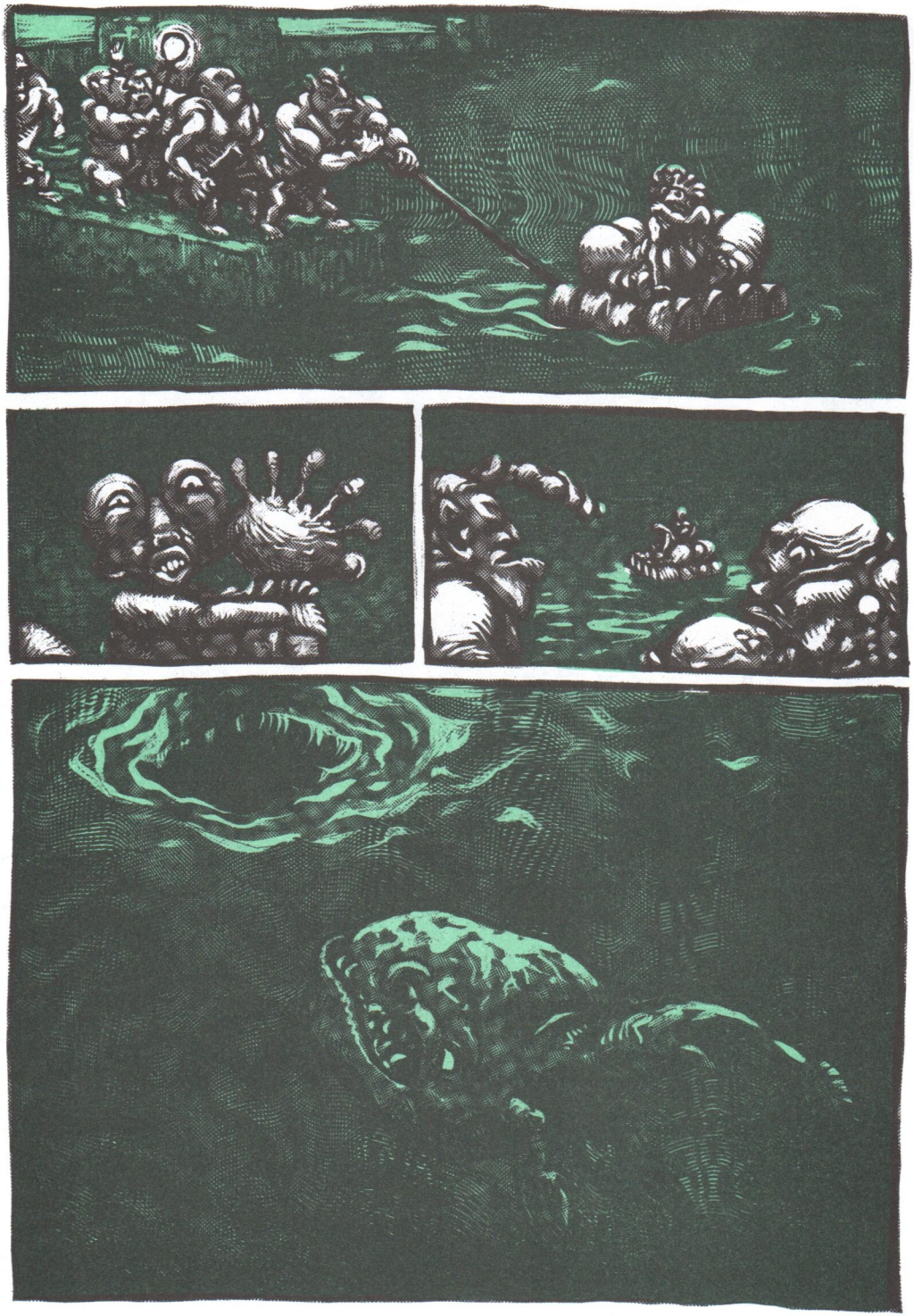

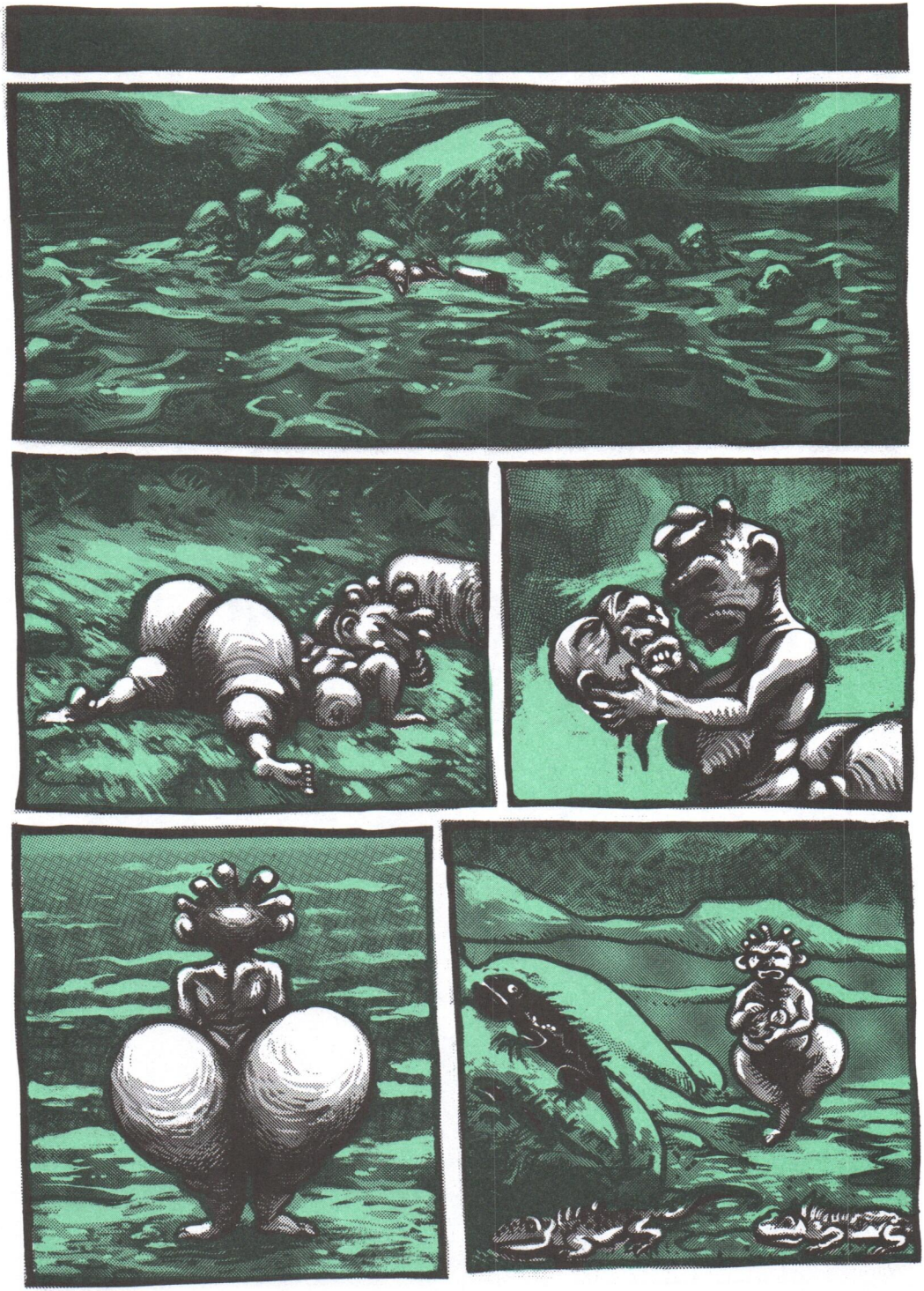

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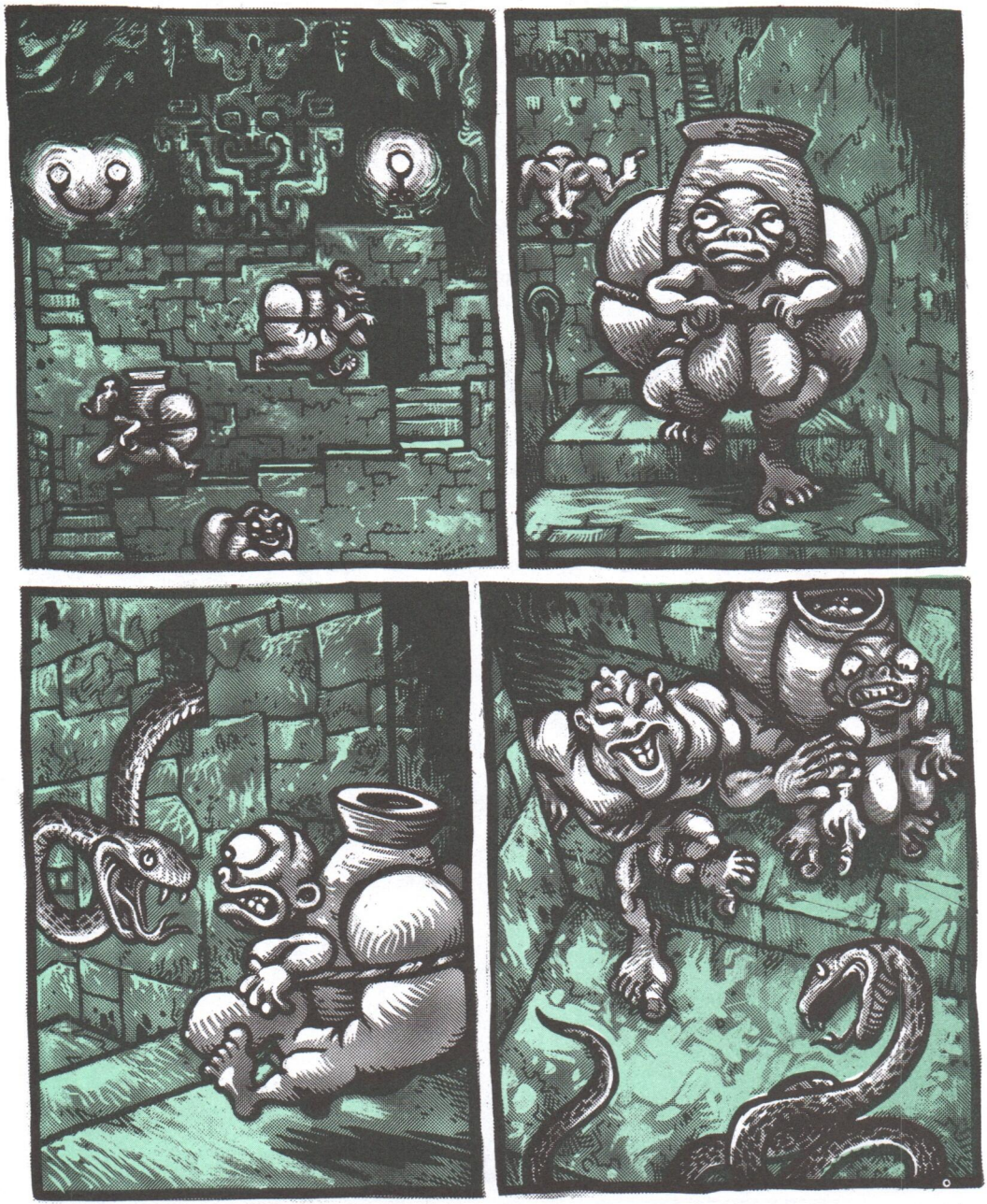

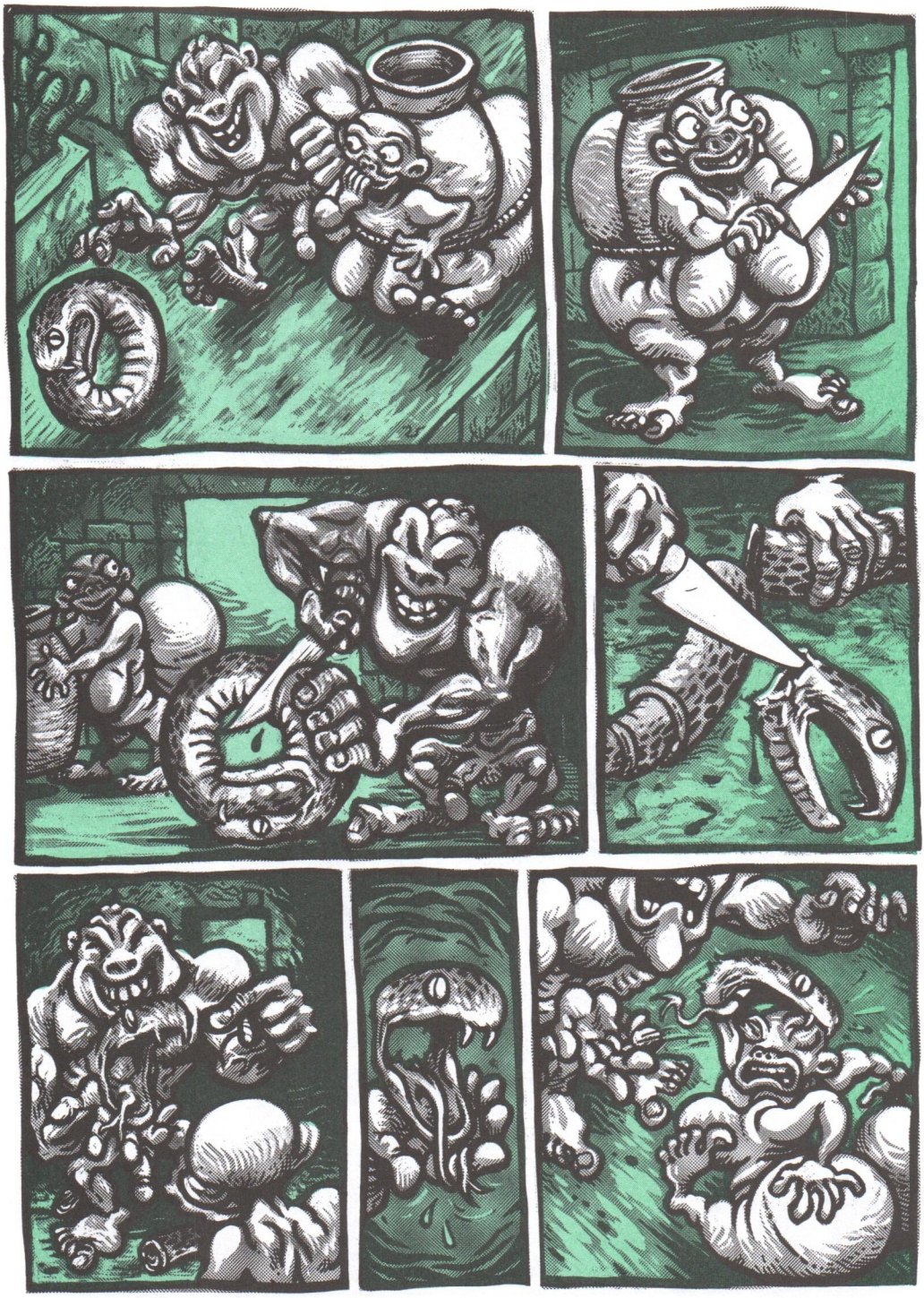

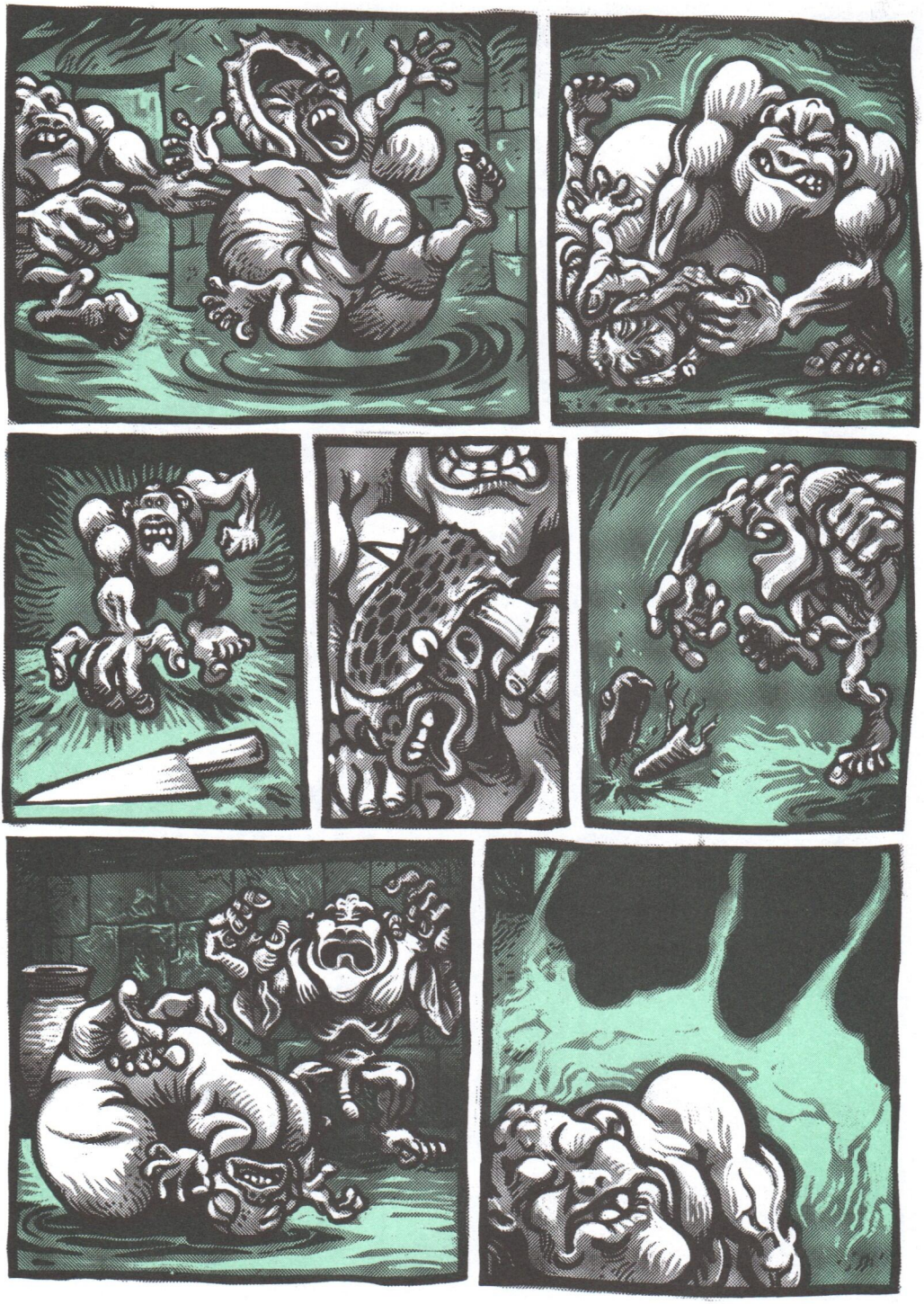

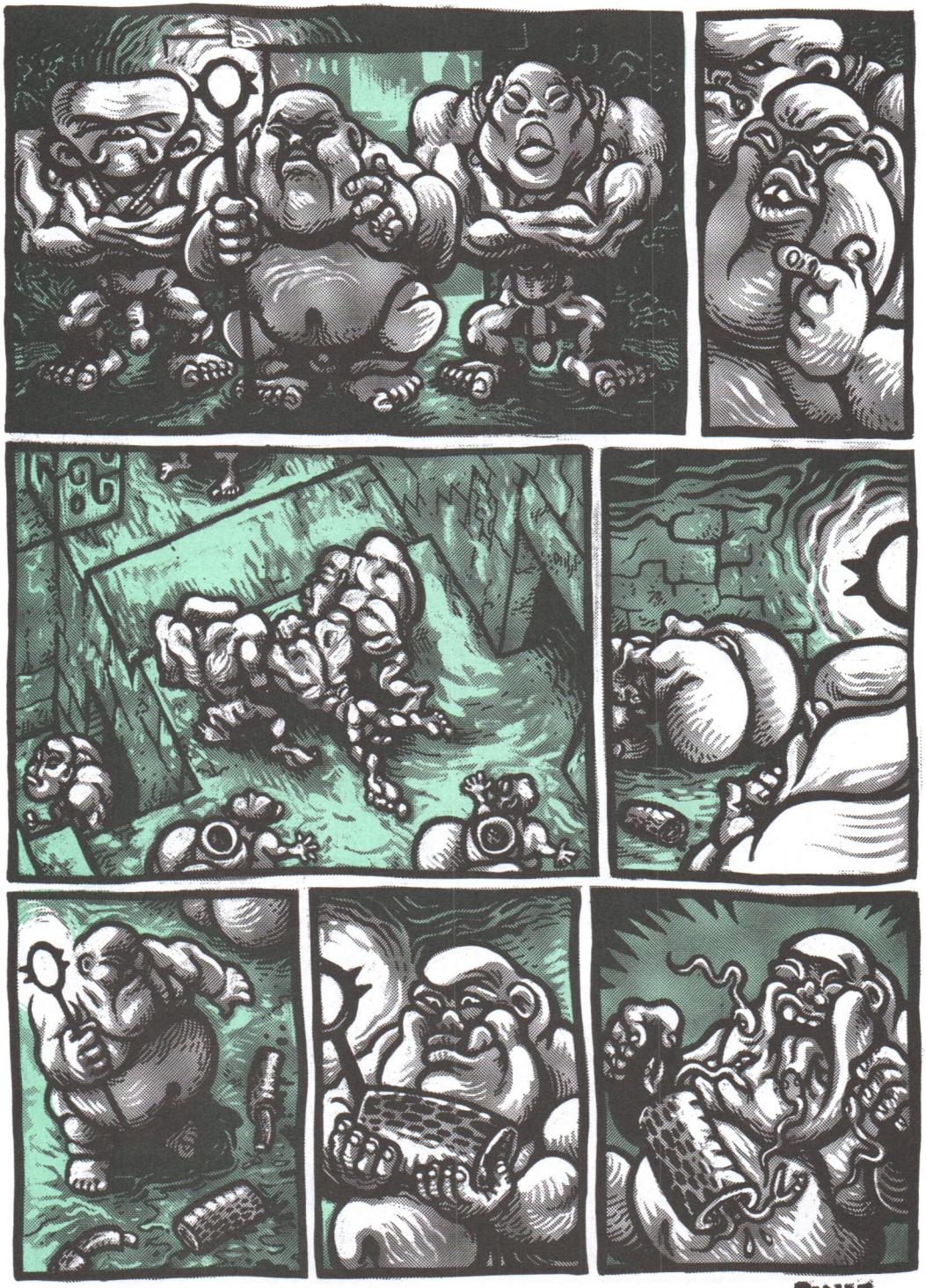
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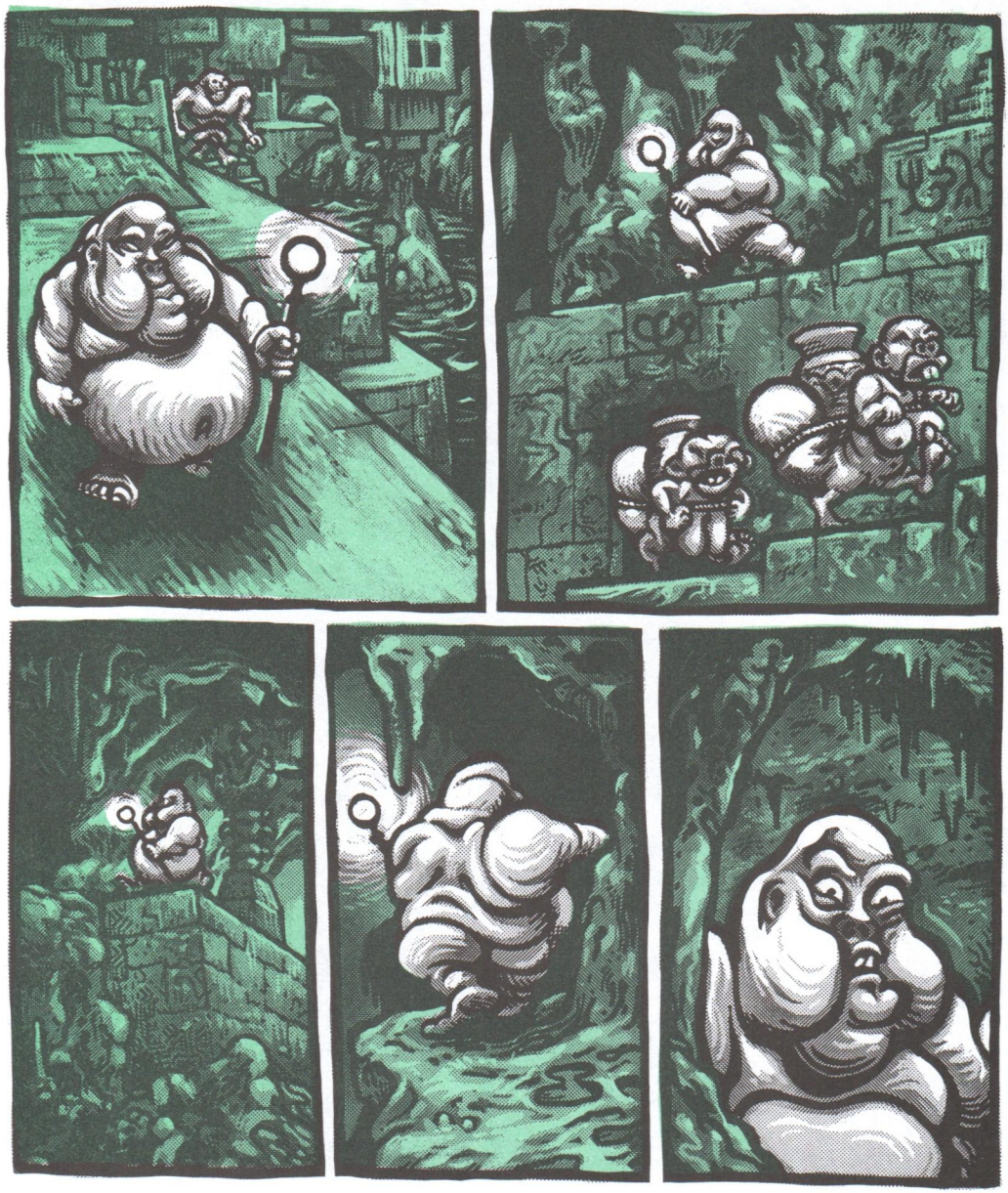

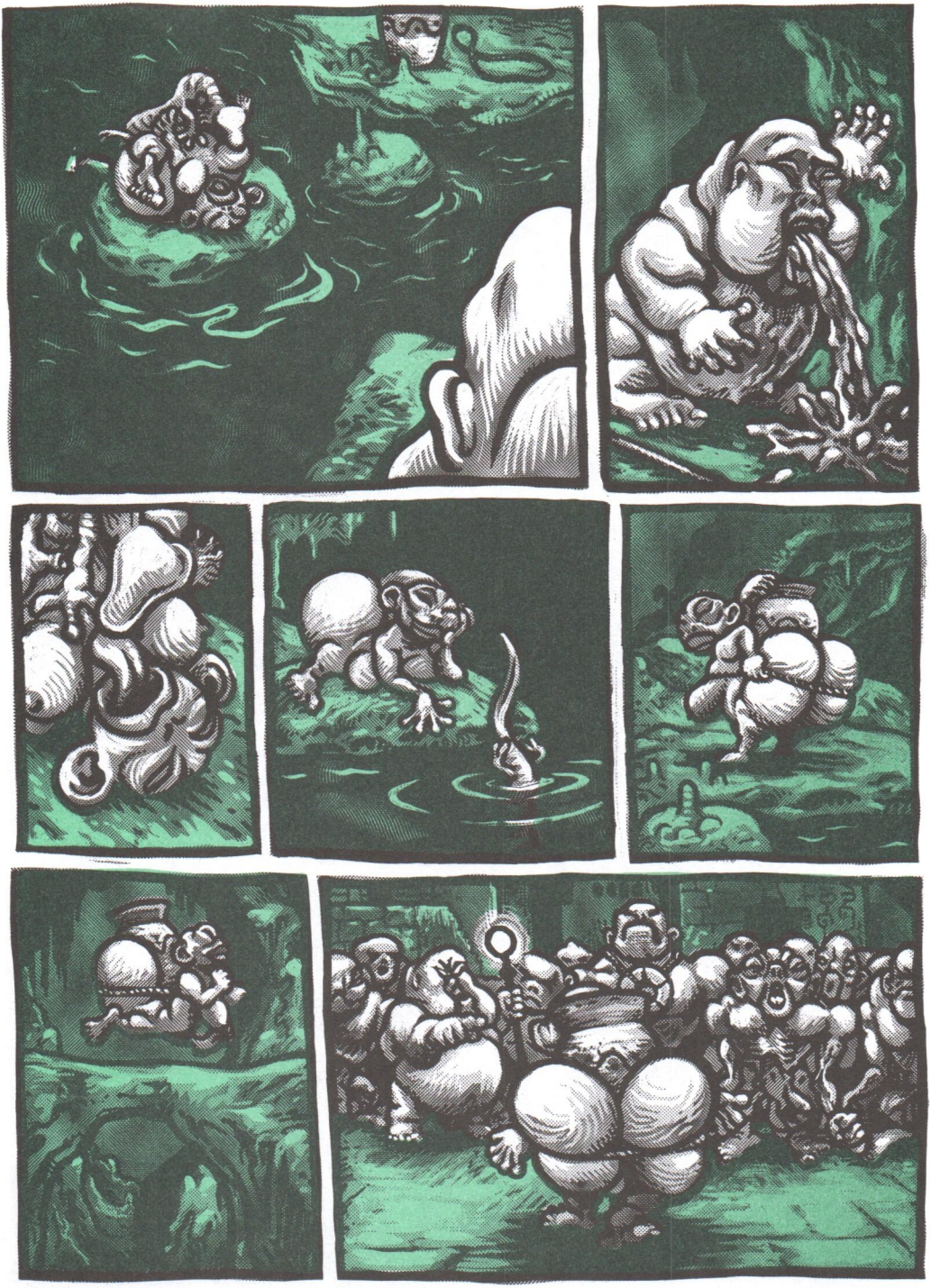

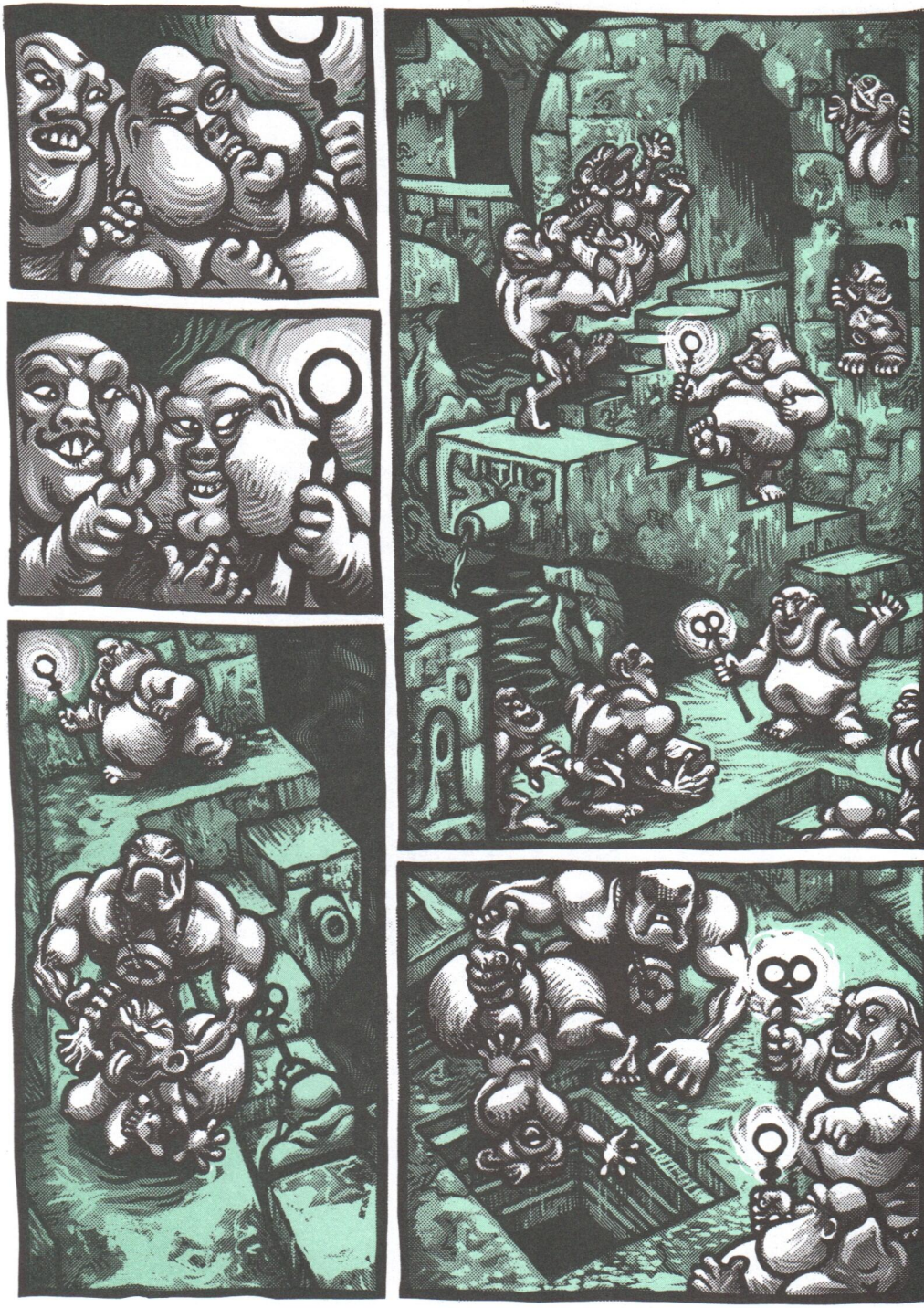

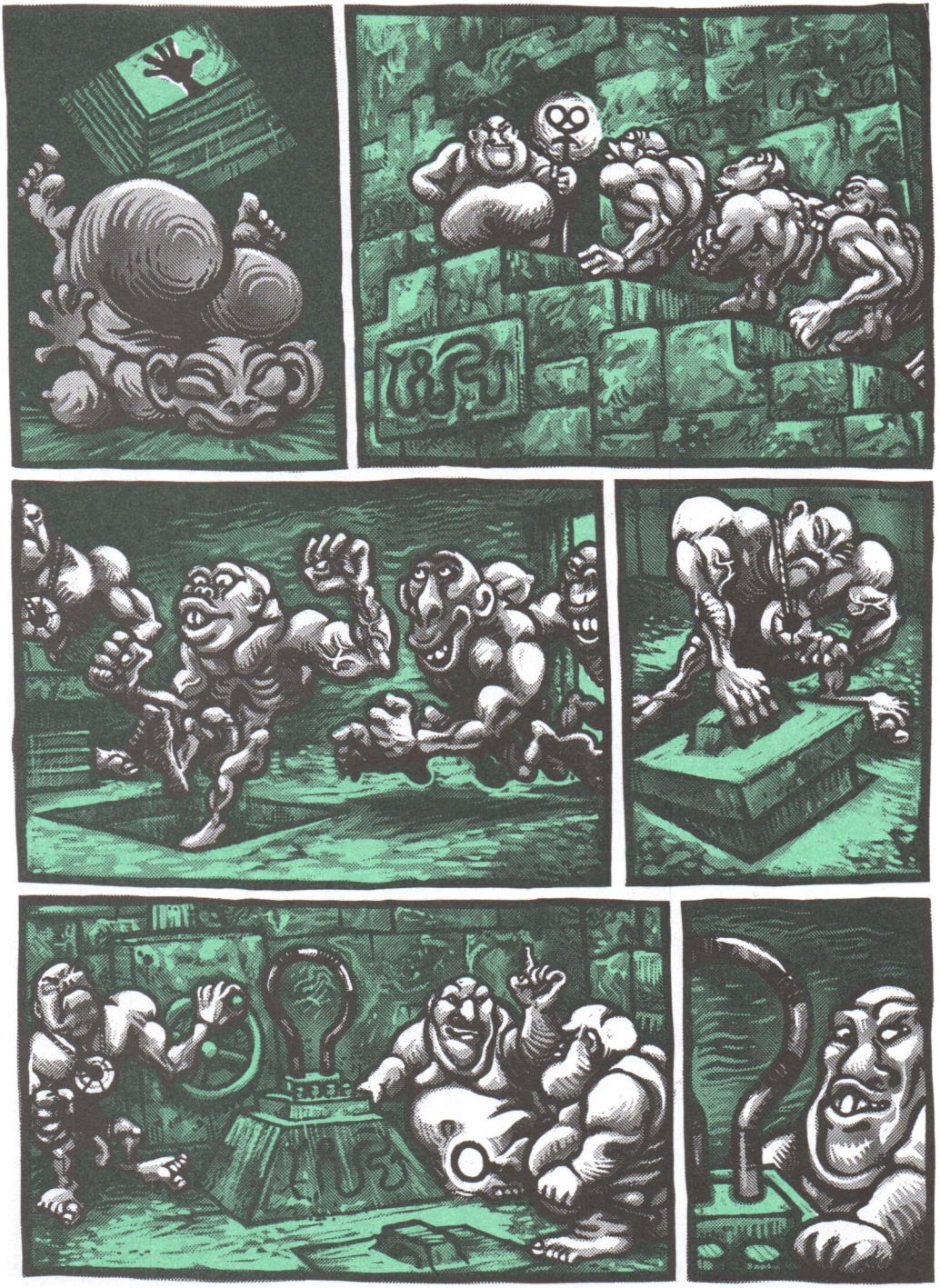

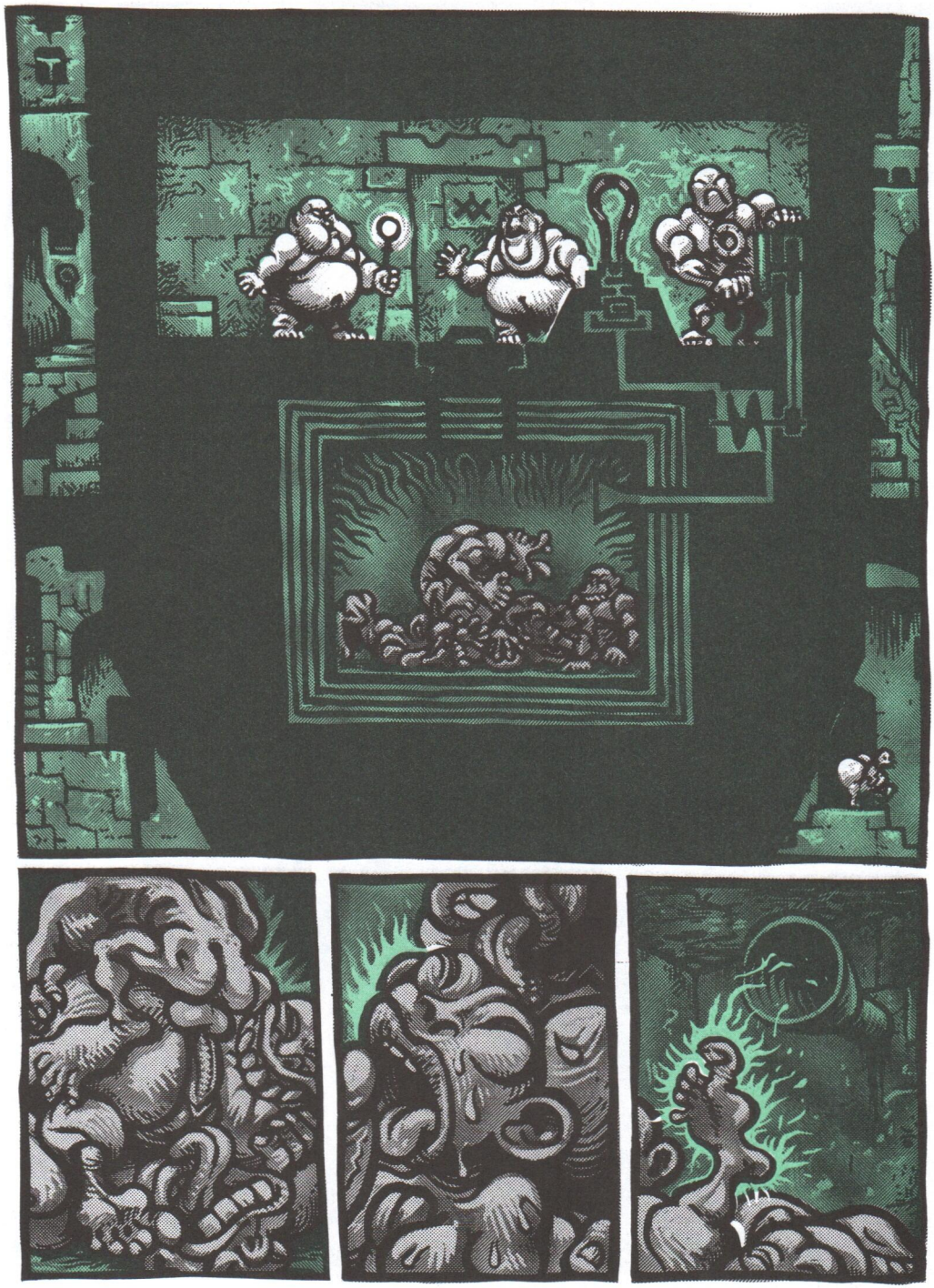

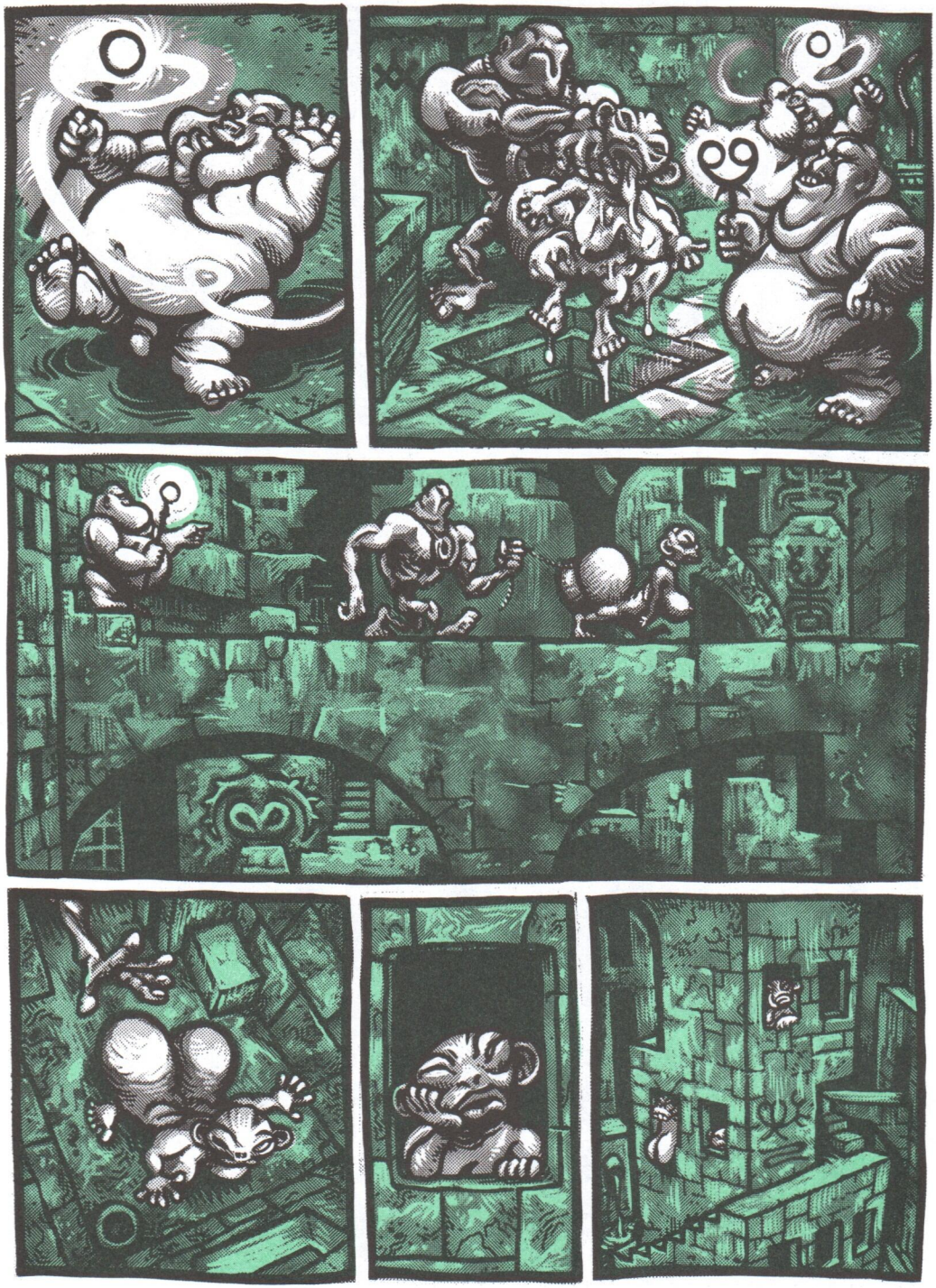

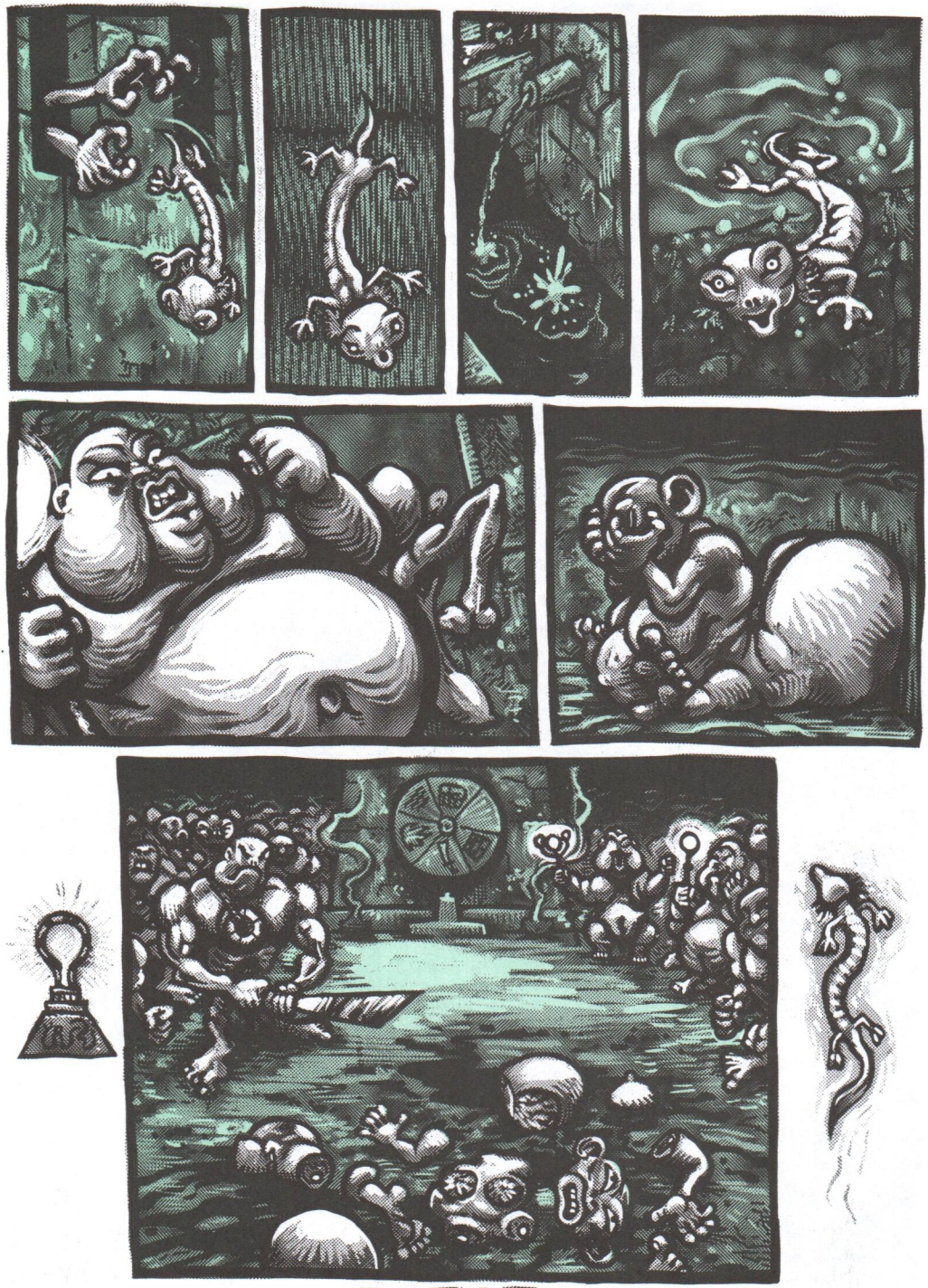
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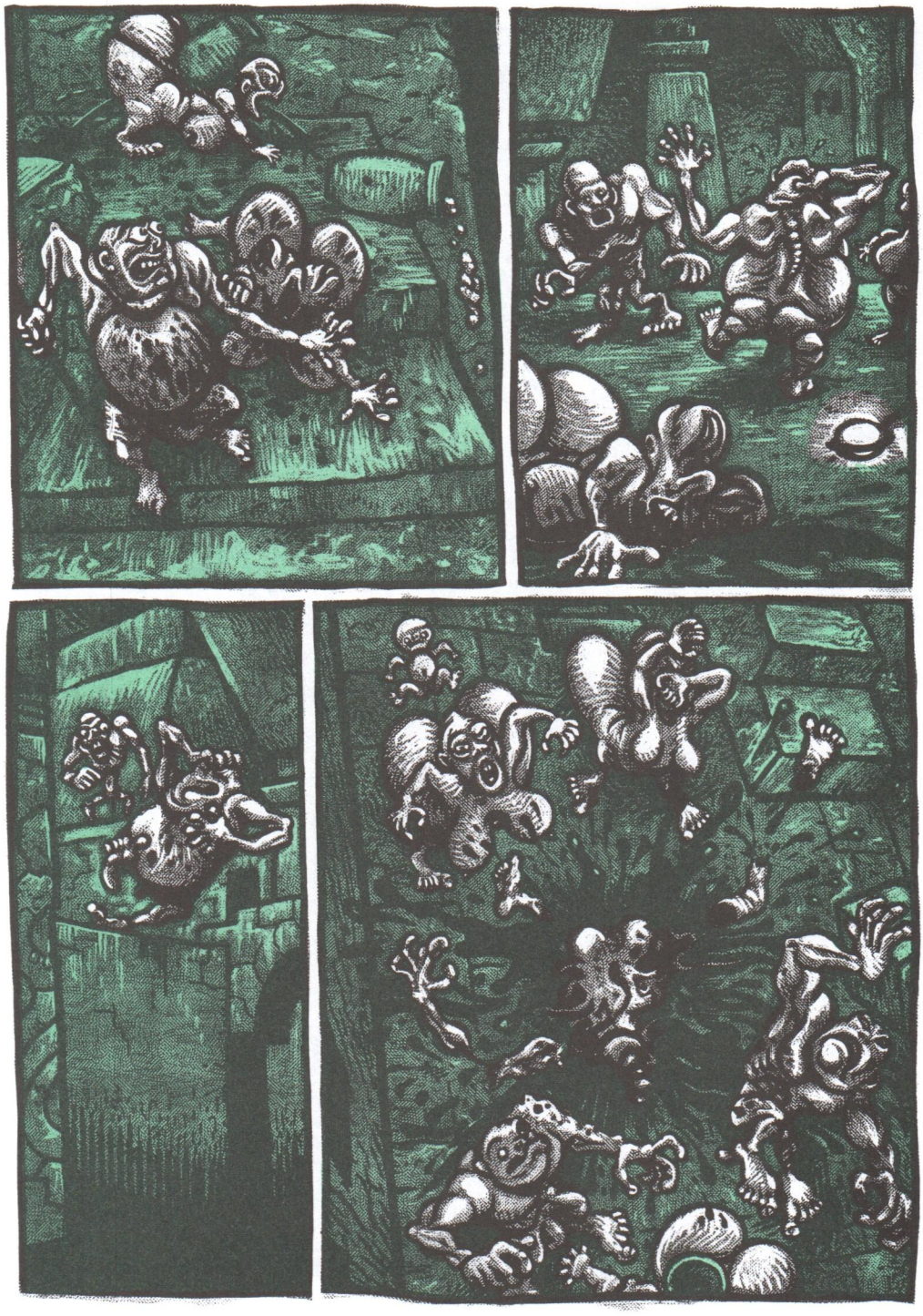

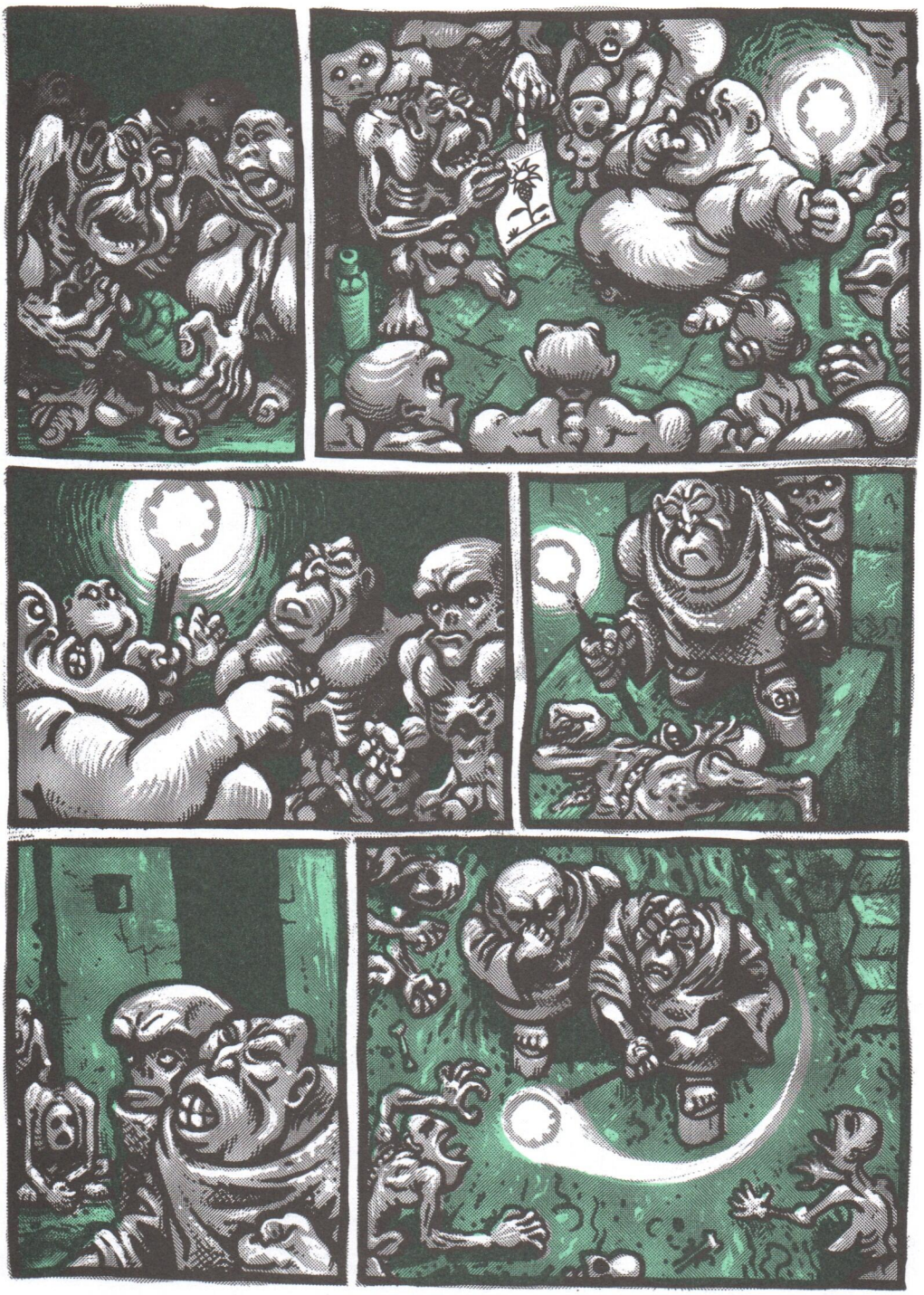

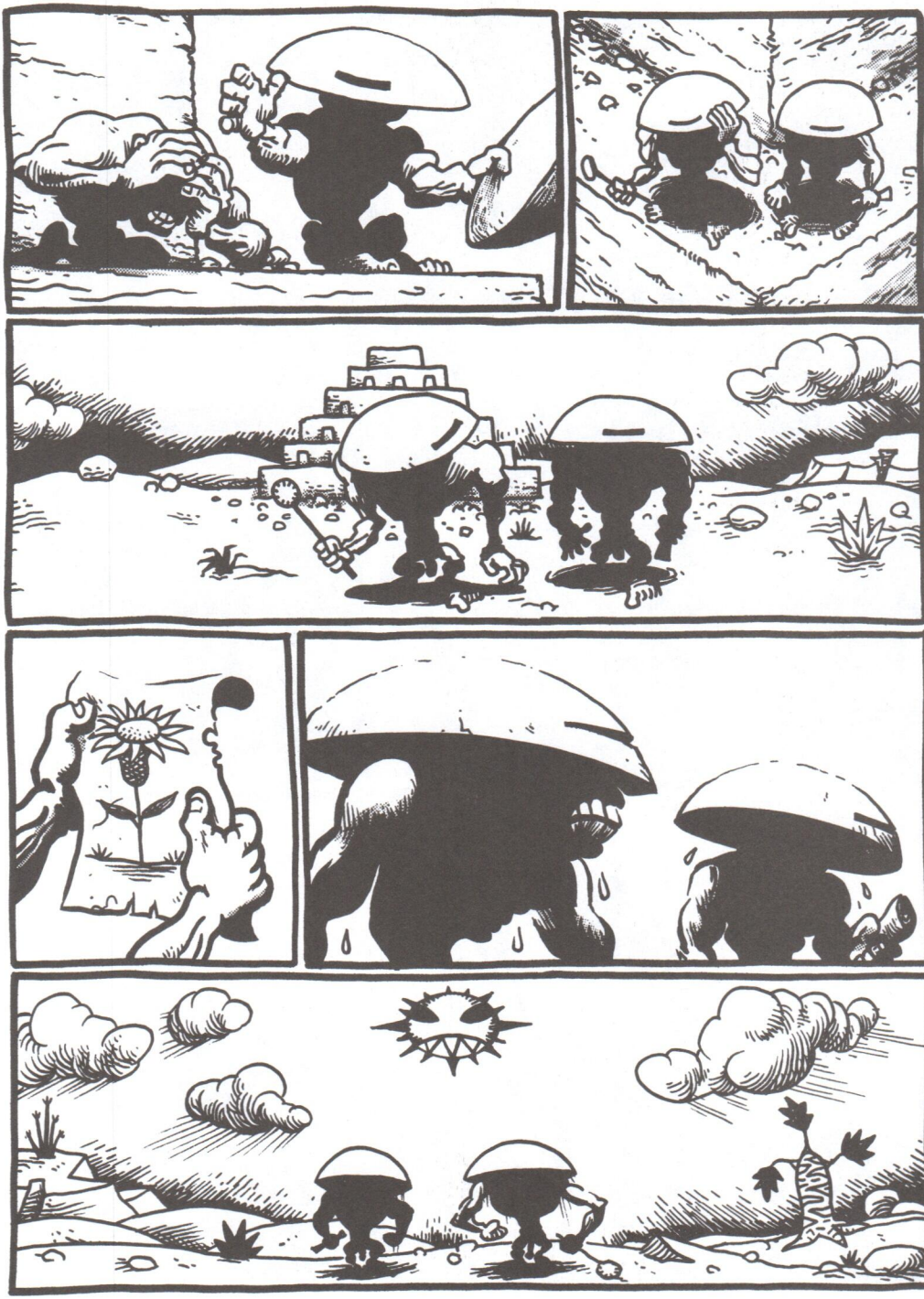

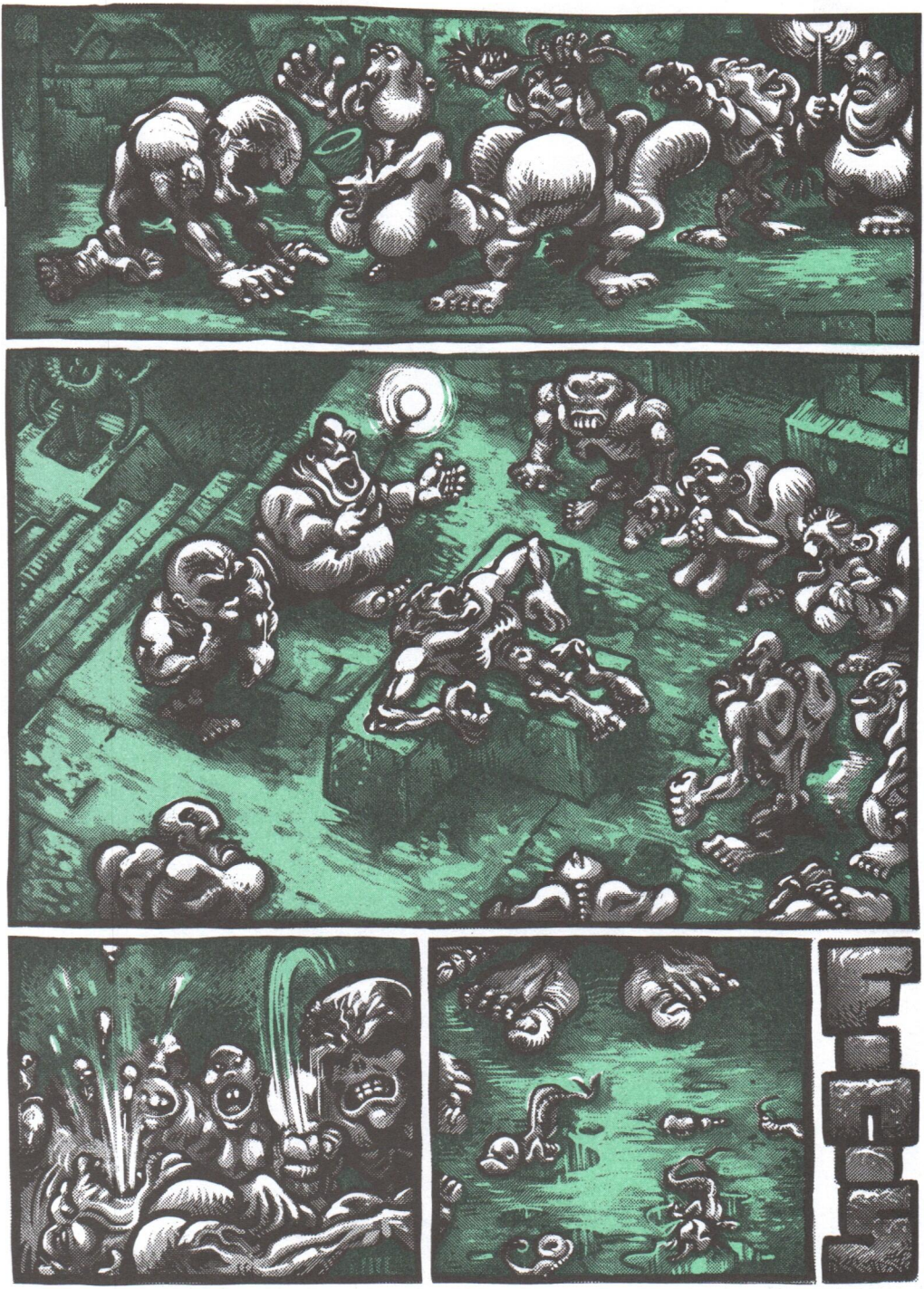

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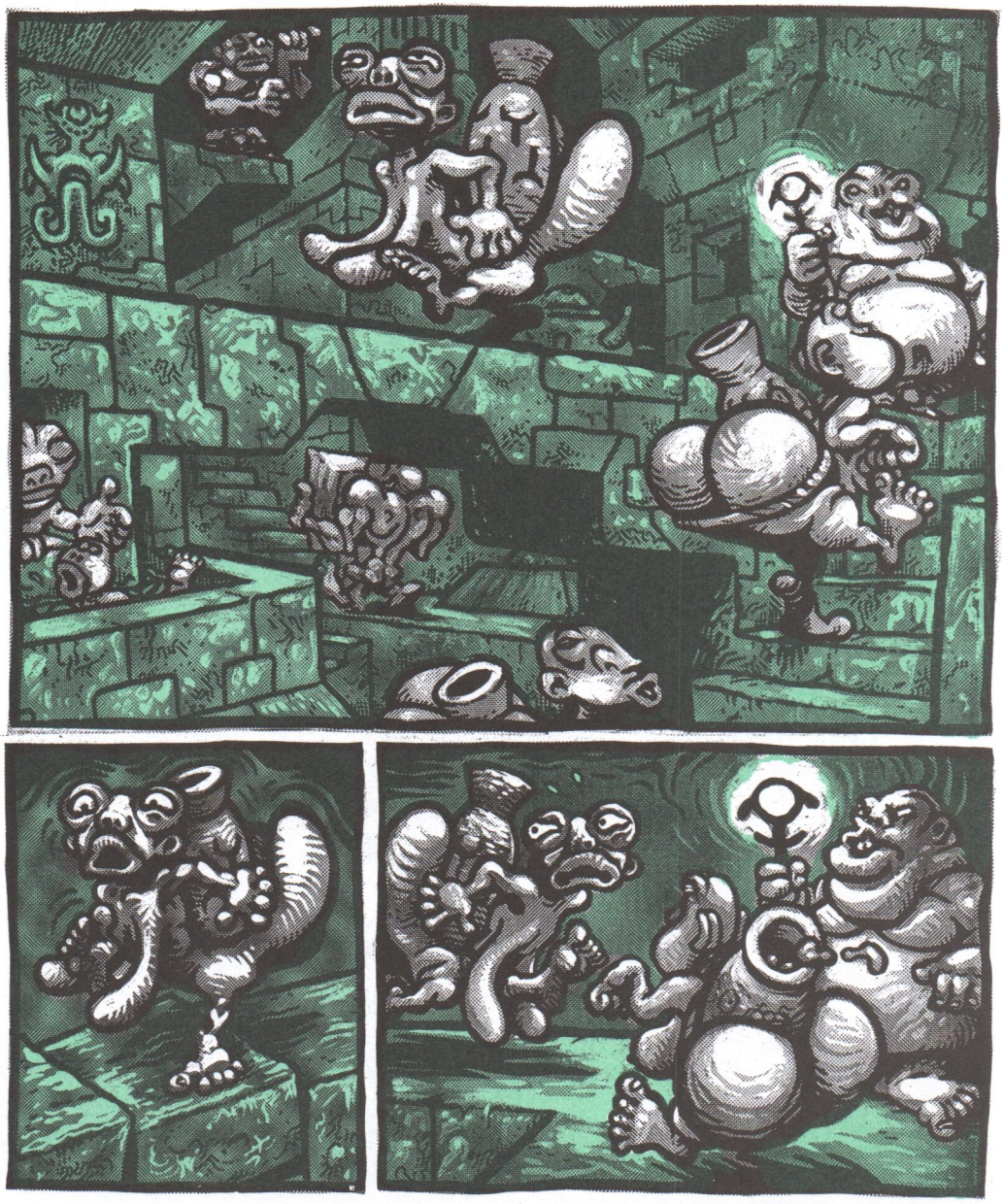

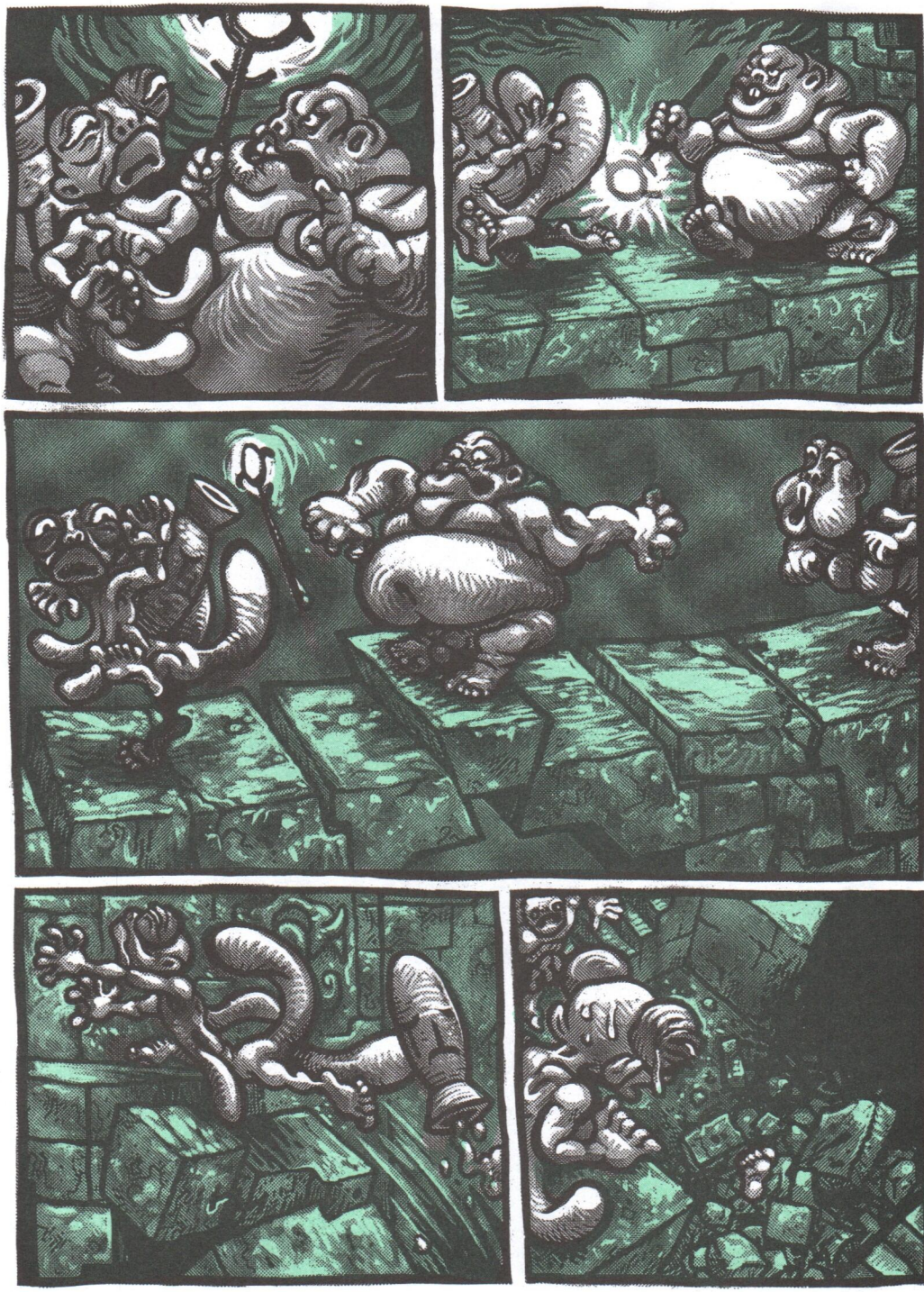

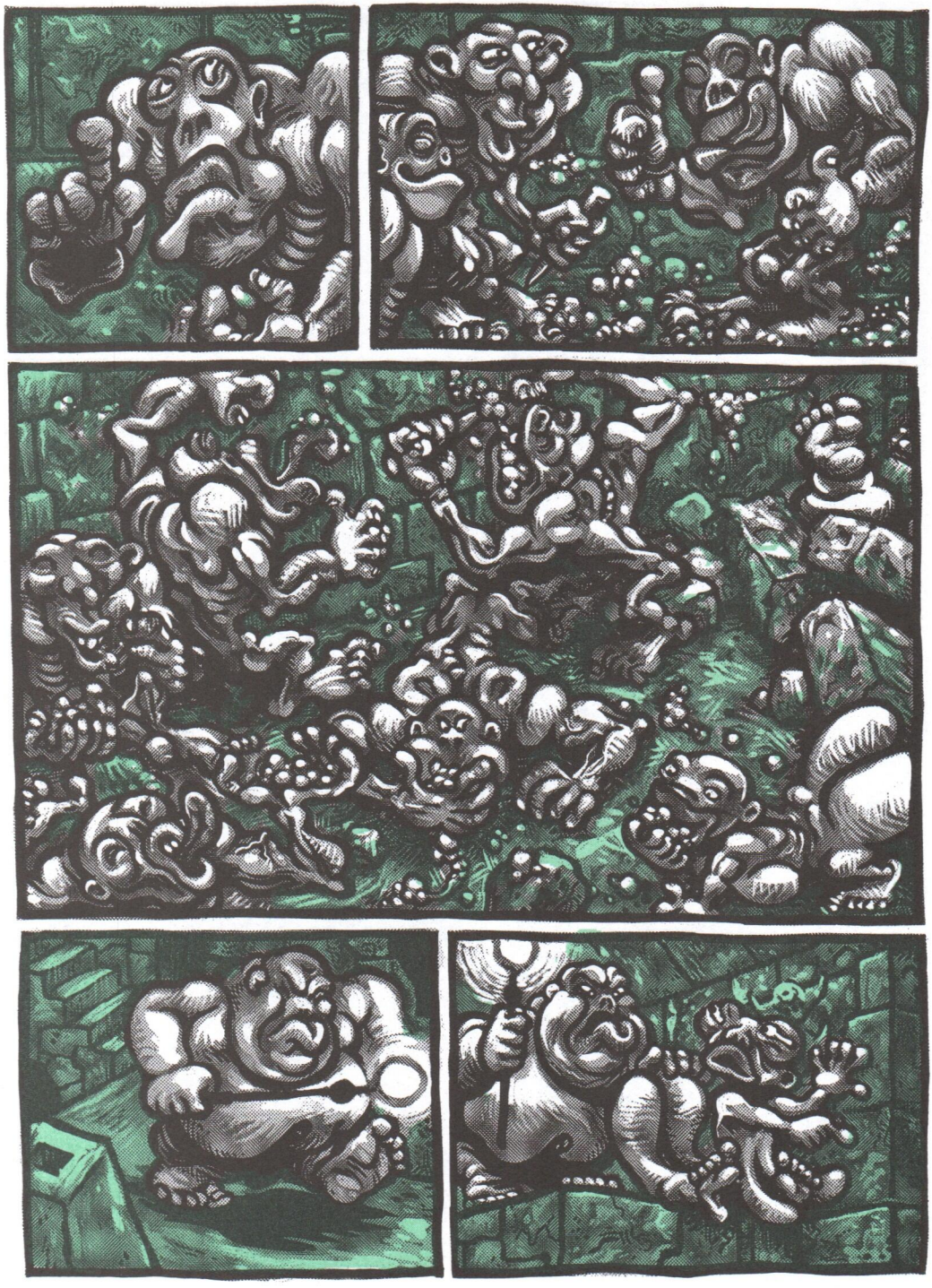

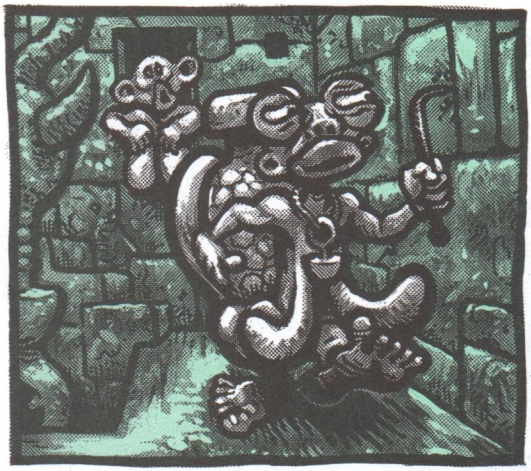

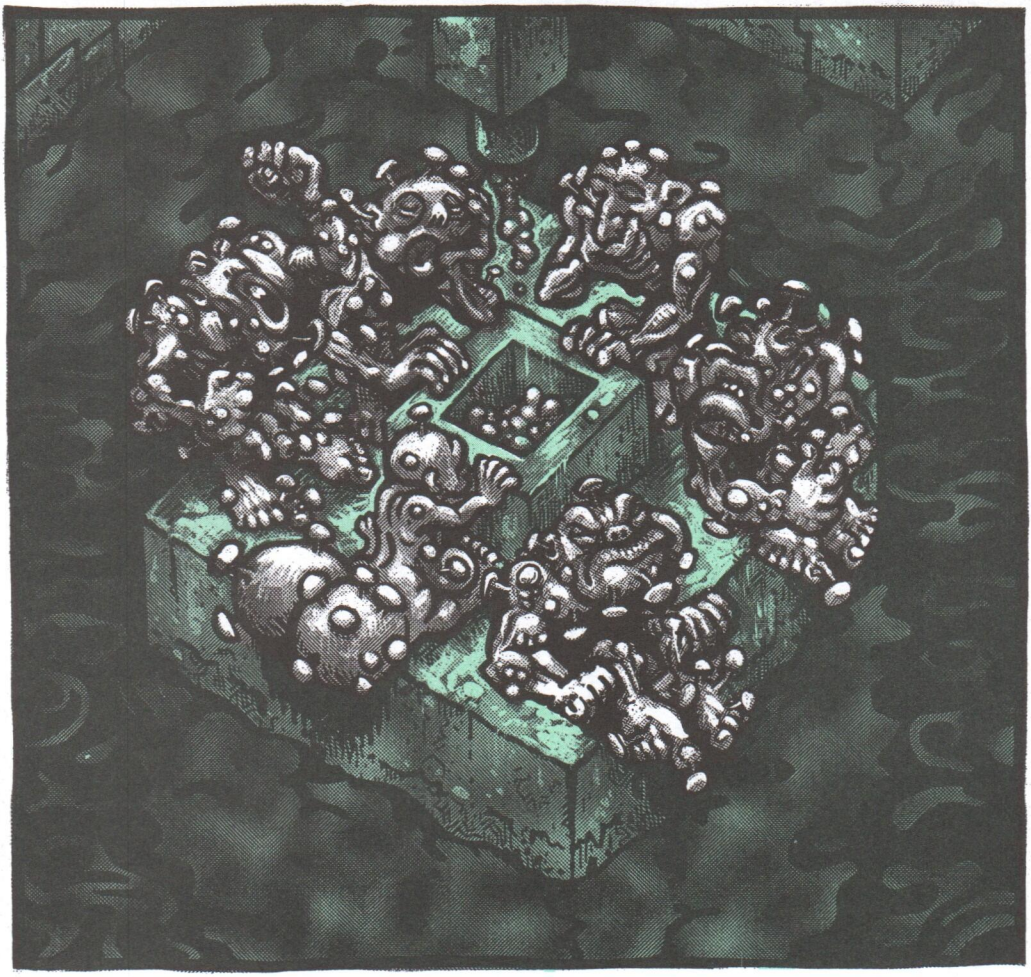

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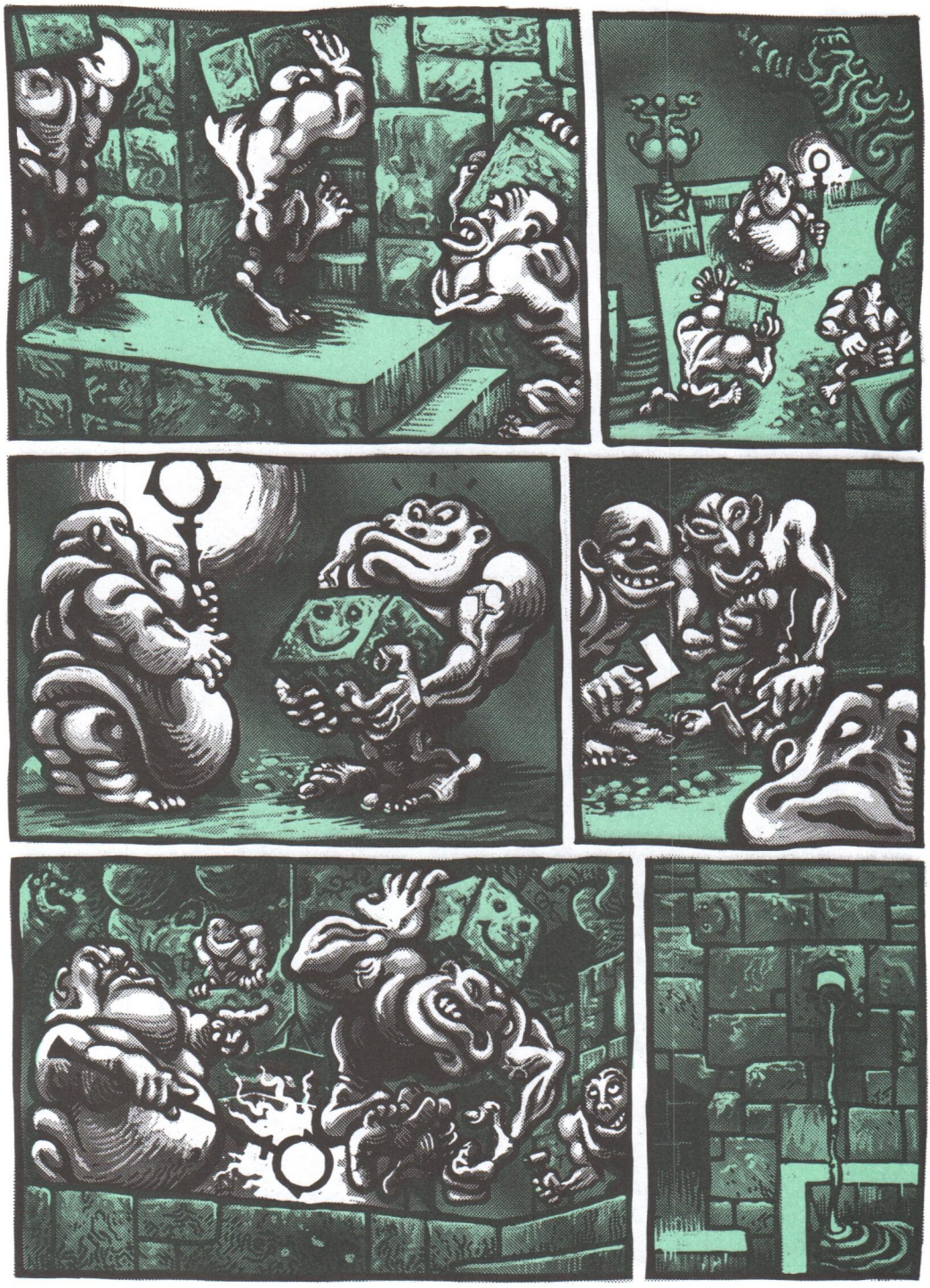

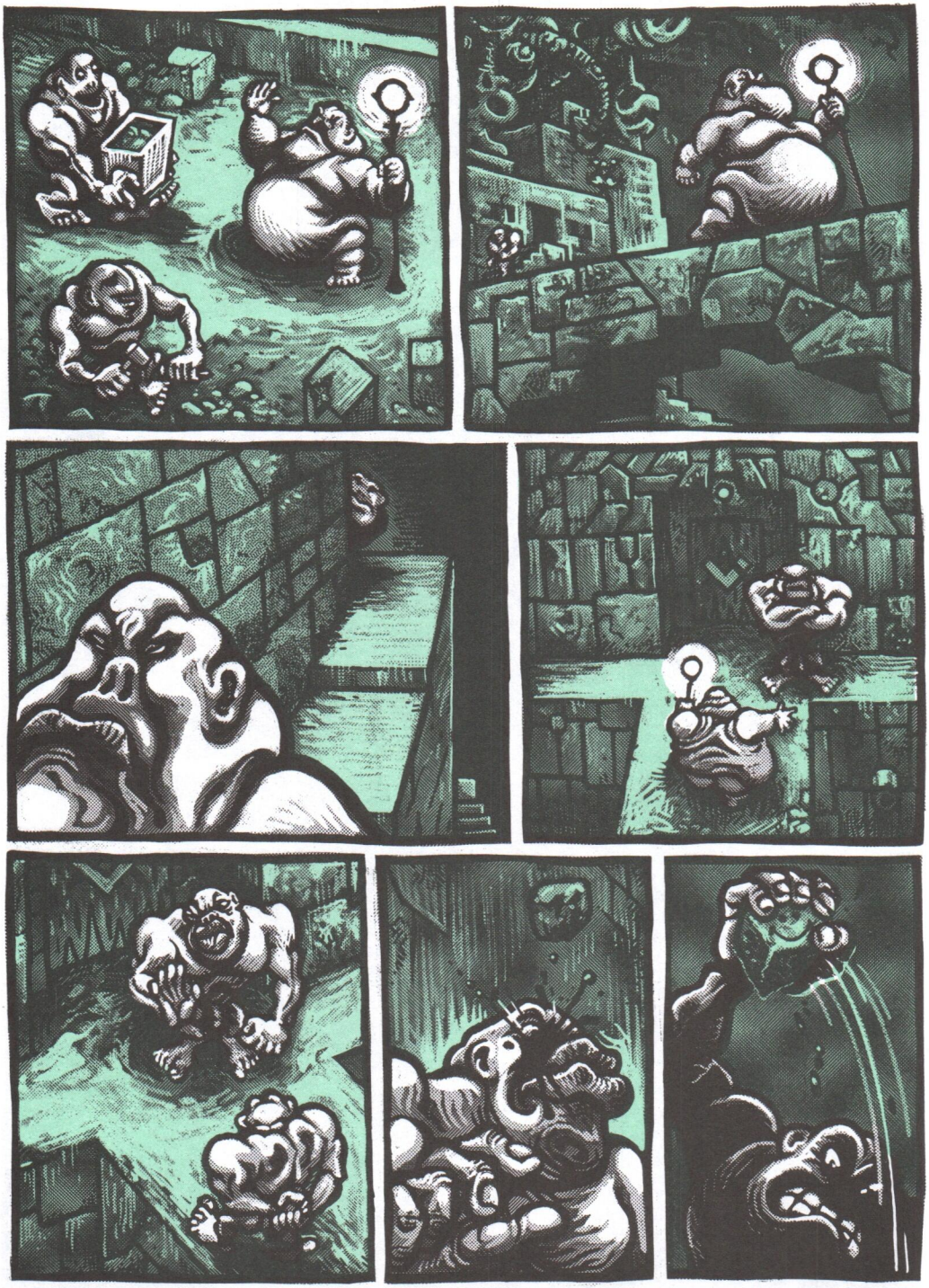

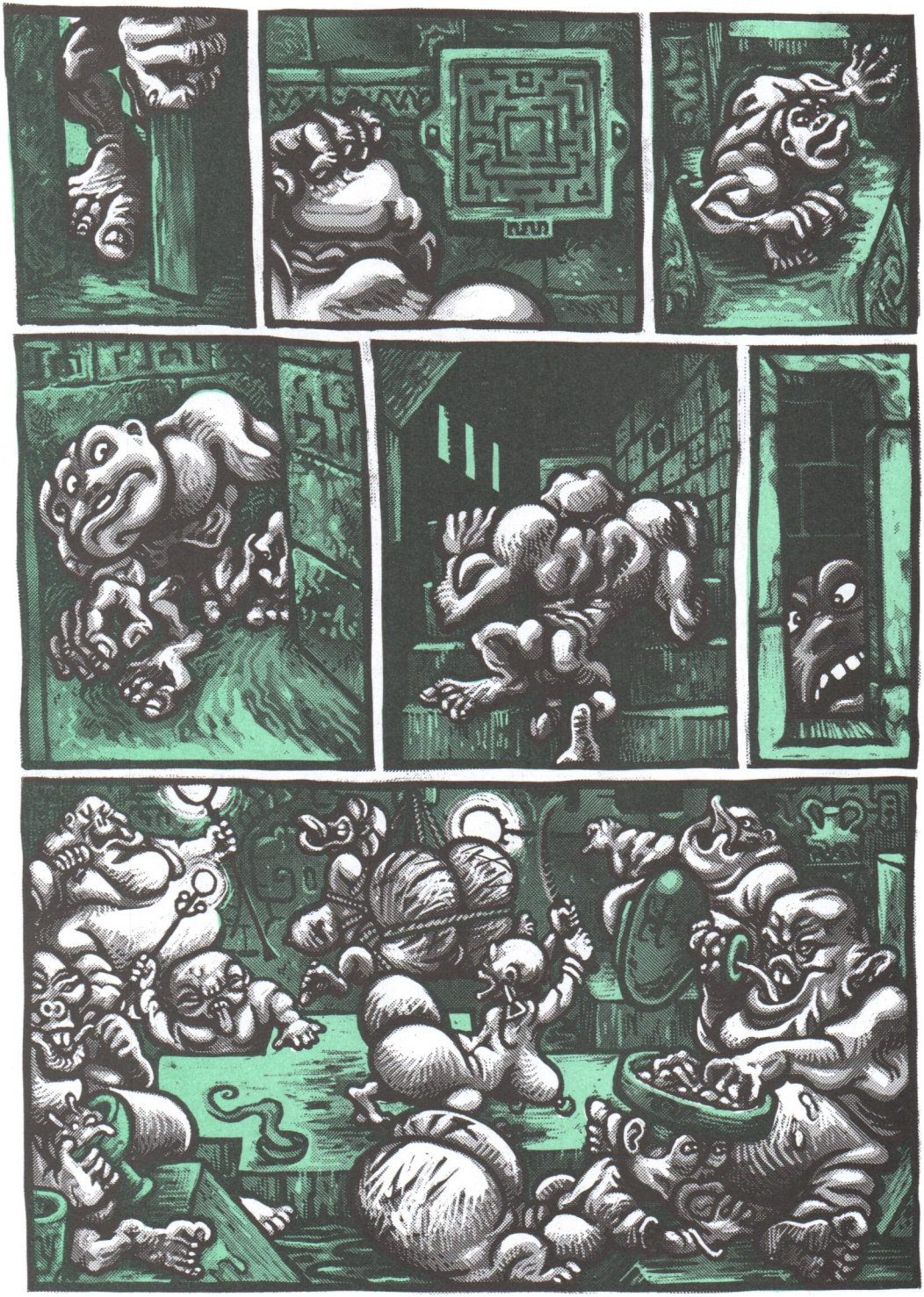

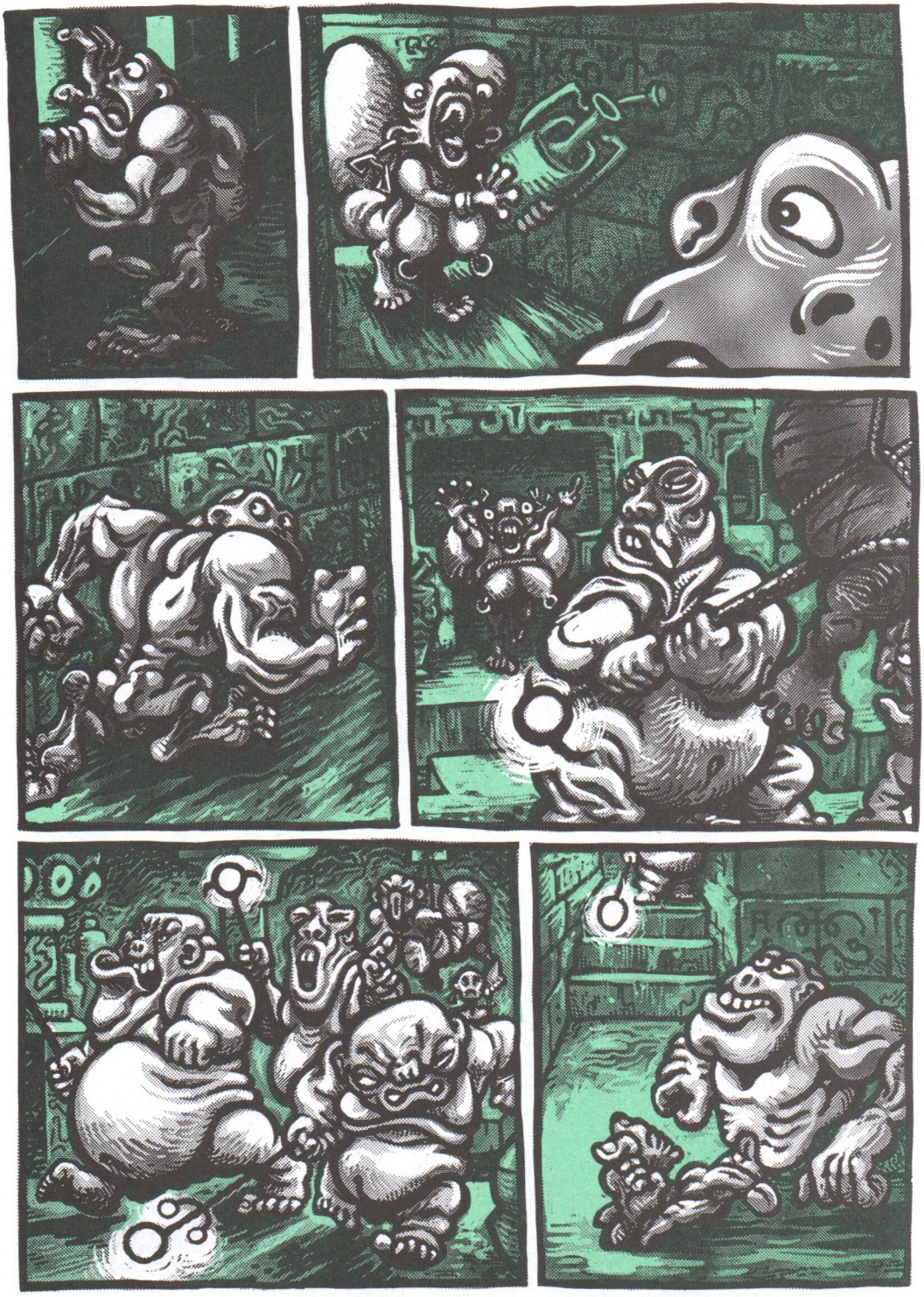

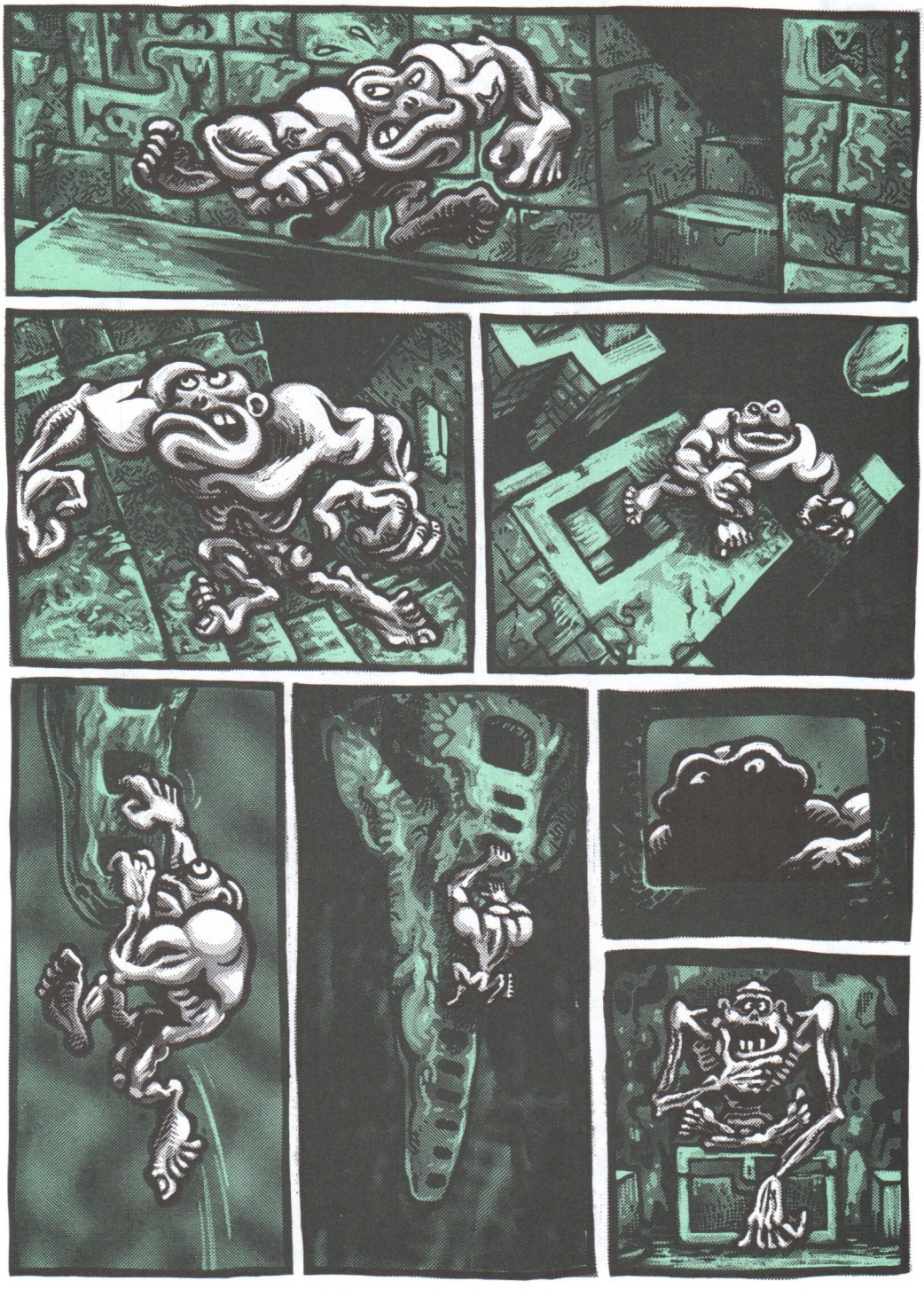

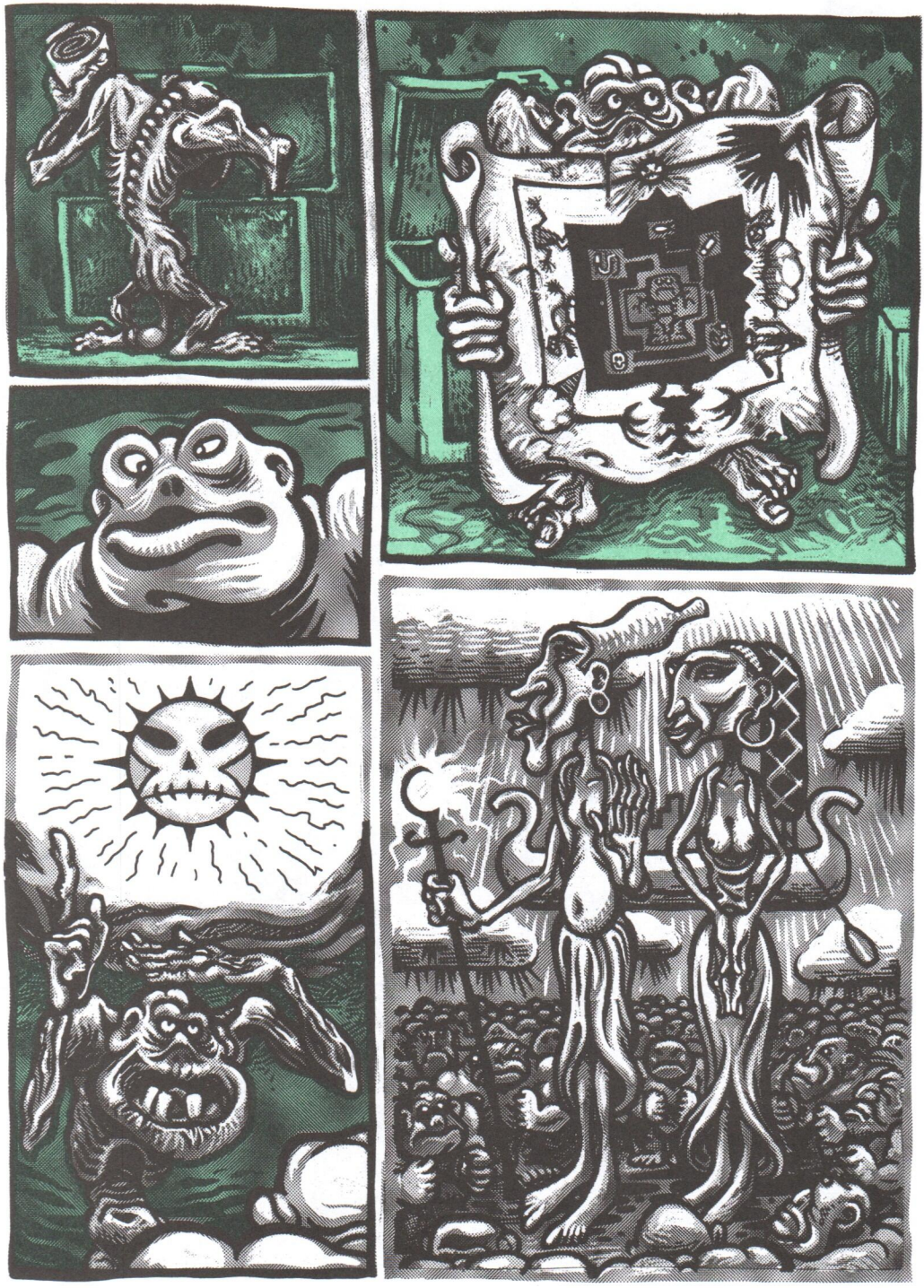

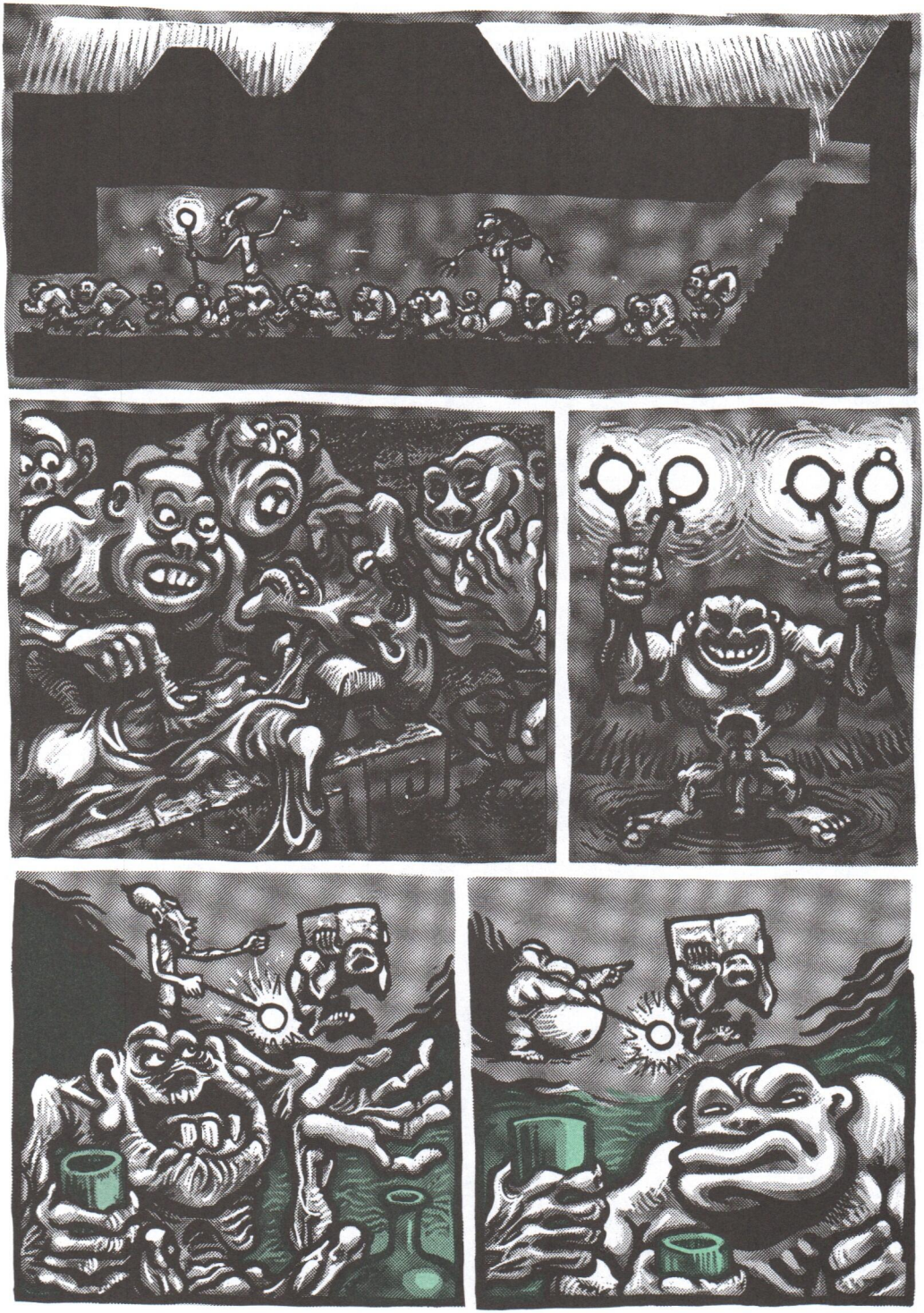

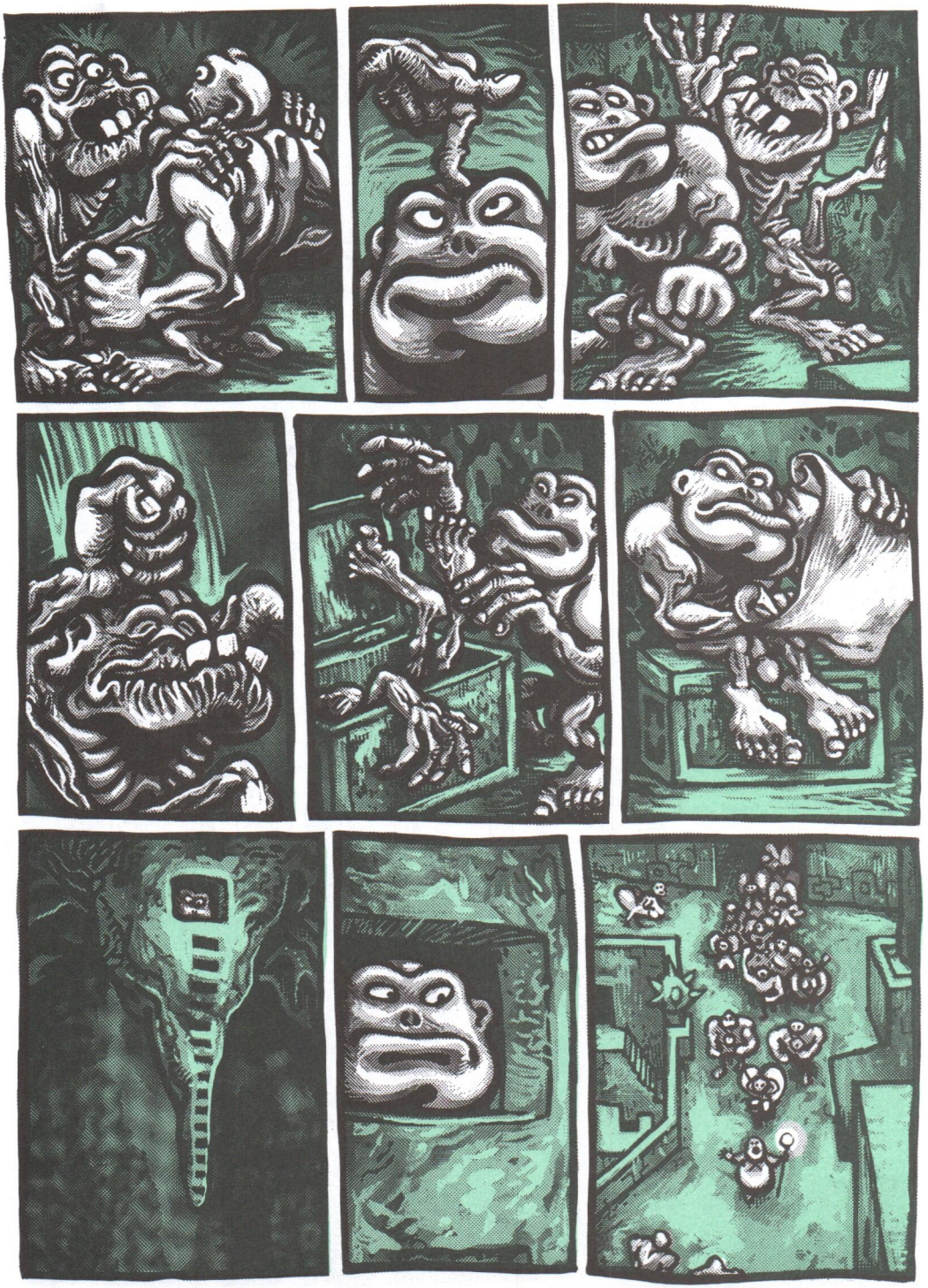

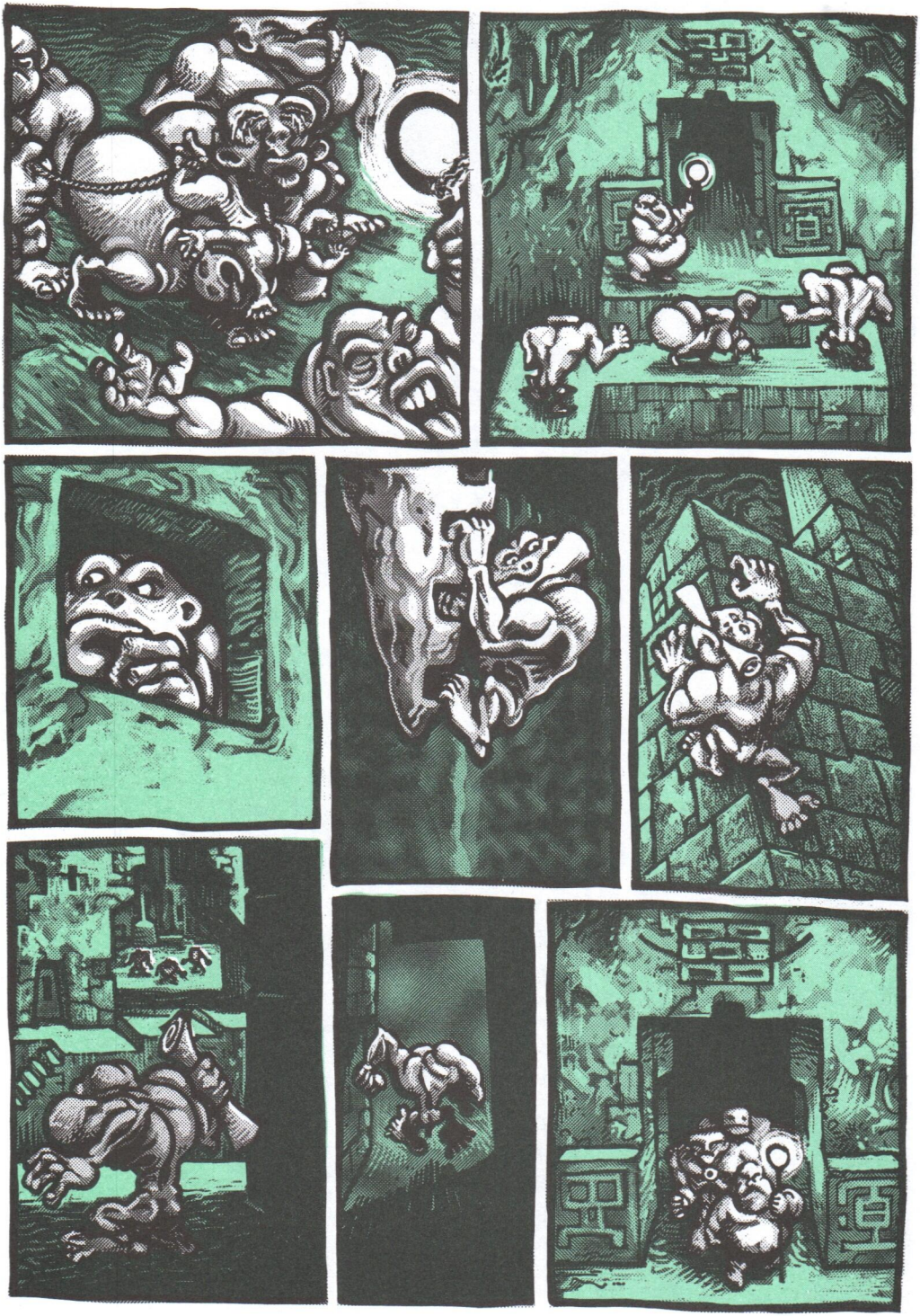

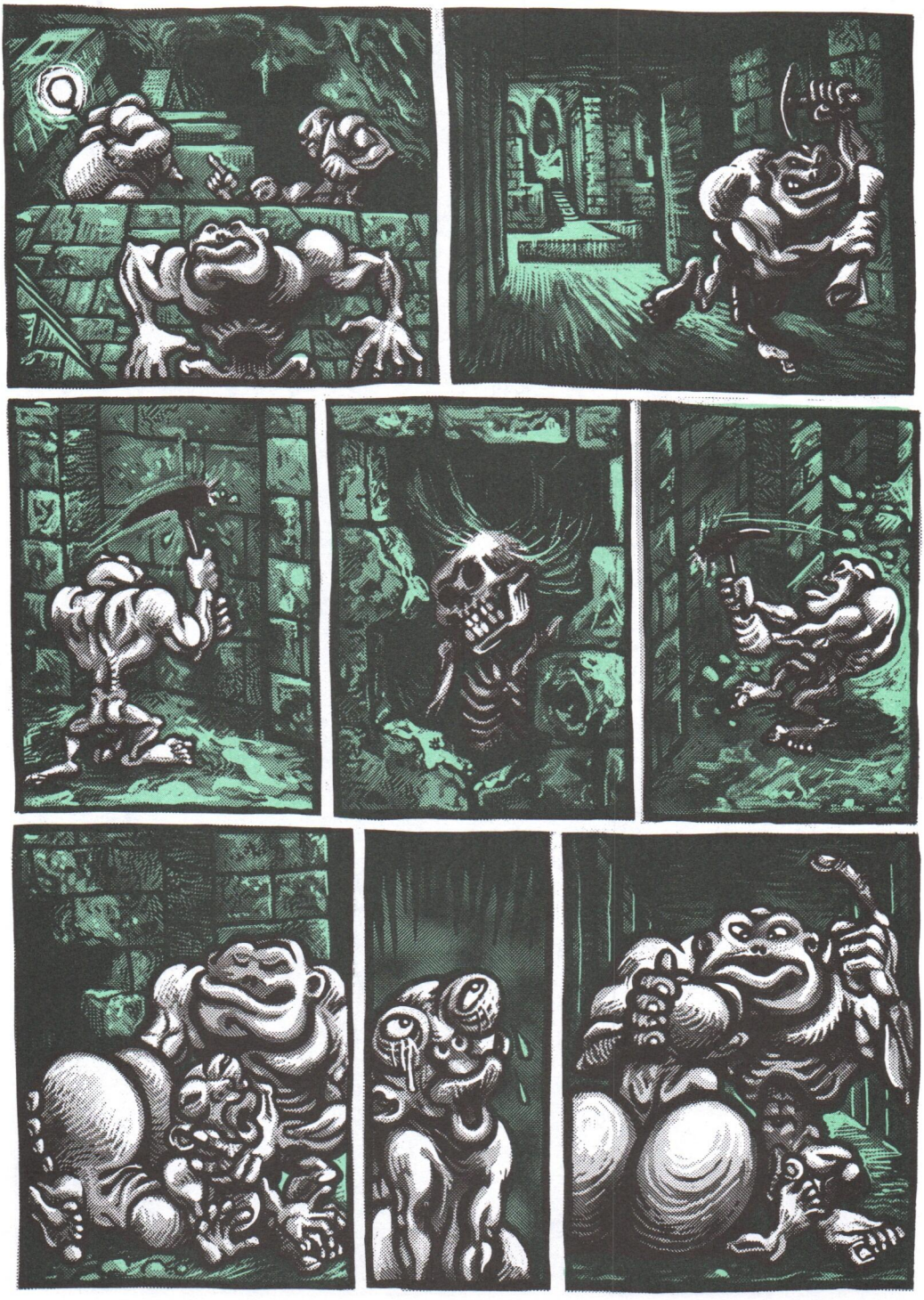

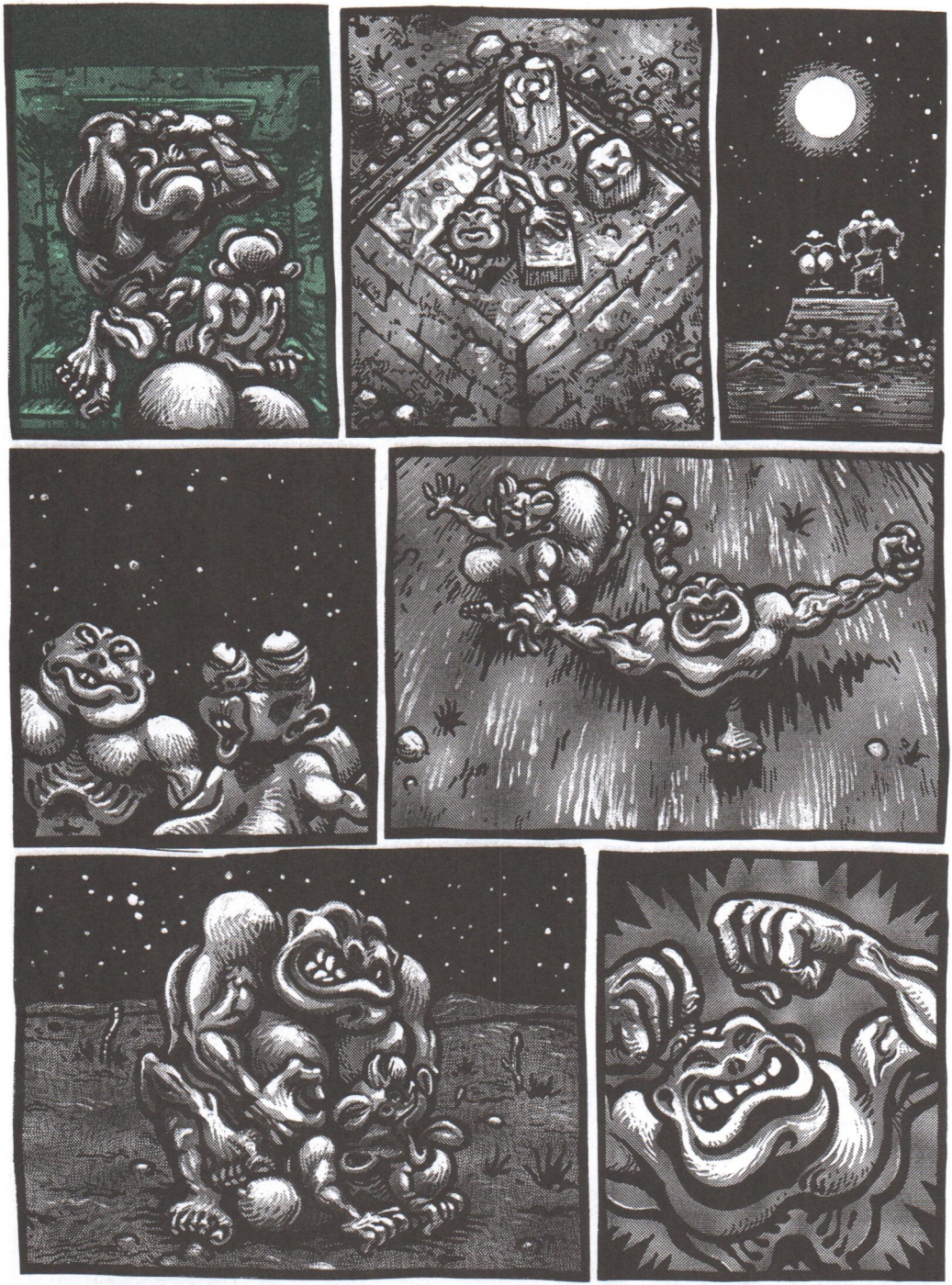

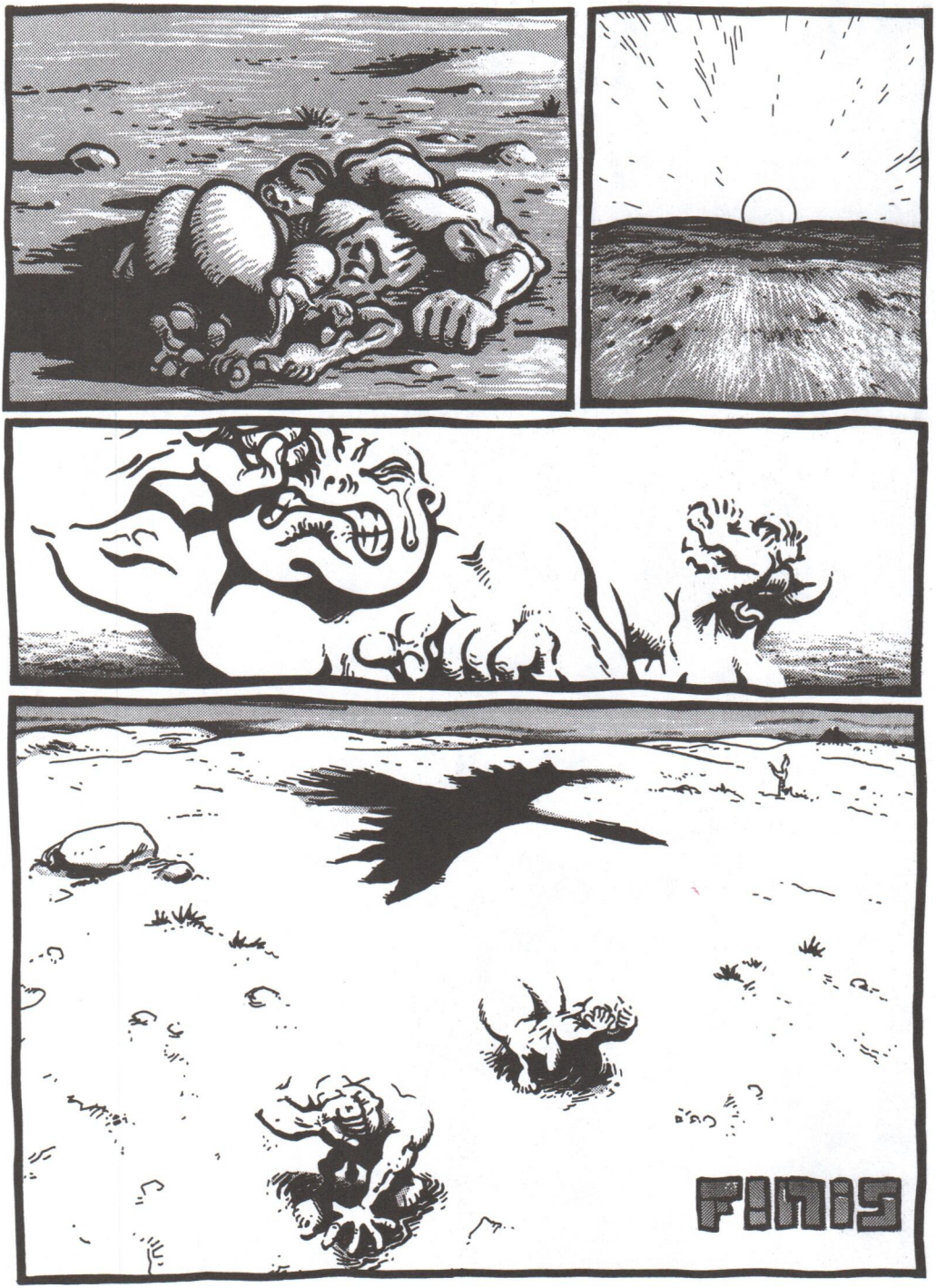
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This wordless graphic novel by Dutch cartoonist Marcel Ruijters contains several dark and grim stories of sex & death, power & religion, and decay & overpopulation. Visually inspired by fortean phenomena, medieval legends and faulty science, *Troglodytes* paints a picture of a bizarre underground society not that unlike our own.

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